

Hafa Adai!

Ex-Finance staff in embezzlement case pleads guilty. **PAGE 3**  
Middle school broken into, food items stolen. **PAGE 6**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

## 'We're here on a mission'

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By JILLIAN ANGELINE  
SAIPAN TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

JILLIAN ANGELINE

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Gov. Ralph DLG Torres led a coterie of CNMI and Guam officials at the Mayflower Hotel here on the eve of the presidential inauguration for the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders-hosted 58<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration Gala.

One official told *Saipan Tribune* there were about 15 to 20 members of the CNMI and 15 to 20 members from Guam attending the Thursday evening gala and show their support for newly sworn in President

Donald Trump.

While the gala included officials from around the nation and the world, some young adults also joined in the

**See MISSION on Page 4**

### 'Extend workforce programs here to end reliance on guest workers'

By JON PEREZ  
[jon\\_perez@saipantribune.com](mailto:jon_perez@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Extending to the CNMI some of the successful federal workforce development programs would slowly reduce the Commonwealth's reliance on foreign workers, according to the 902 report that was transmitted to U.S. Congress last week.

This is one of the recommendations agreed on by both the federal and CNMI government panels in the 902 report to help sustain the Commonwealth's renewed economic growth.

The CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant Visa or CW1 program allows foreign laborers to

**See EXTEND on Page 4**

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres addresses the crowd at the Asian American Pacific Islander Gala at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Inauguration Eve Thursday, Jan. 19. Torres is joined on stage by his wife Diann Torres and Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo and his wife Christine Lujan Sonido. About 15 to 20 CNMI residents attended the gala.



JILLIAN ANGELINE

CNMI officials and attendees at the Asian American Pacific Islander Gala take a moment from the festivities to pose for the cameras. About 15-20 CNMI residents attended the gala; about 15-20 Guam residents joined the festivities.

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Samsung say tests of Galaxy Note 7 smartphones found defects in batteries.

**PAGE 15**



### ASIA

For India's typewriters, the ribbon may have finally run out.

**PAGE 17**



### WORLD

Exiled Gambian ruler Yahya Jammeh stole millions of dollars in his final weeks in power.

**PAGE 18**



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## Local

## MVA: Transportation key to Rota and Tinian dev't

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority thinks a viable way to tackle Rota and Tinian's economic slump is by setting up an effective means of transportation to and from Saipan.

MVA managing director

Chris Concepcion said his recent meetings with tourism professionals from Korea, China, and Japan have a common denominator—"the lack of reliable, steady, and larger transportation methods between Saipan and Tinian and Rota."

"There have been repeated inquiries regarding ferry trans-

portation from Saipan—vehicle ferries in particular—to enable tourists and residents from Saipan to bring their vehicles onboard, spend the day or more on Tinian, and help spread some of the revenue being produced and spent on Saipan to our sister islands in the south," said Concepcion.

MVA suggests this method as a way to help the economies of both Tinian and Rota and recognizes the need for private investment to occur as well as some public subsidy "to help it get on track until it becomes sustainable and profitable," he said.

Concepcion said MVA is ready to support a mode of trans-

portation to and from the southernmost islands of the CNMI.

"We encourage our partners at the Commonwealth Development Authority and Commonwealth Ports Authority to look into ways to help stimulate this type of investment in the CNMI," he said.

"We encourage our partners

at the Commonwealth Development Authority and Commonwealth Ports Authority to look into ways to help stimulate this type of investment in the CNMI. The MVA is ready to help promote and market this attraction to tourists who visit the Marianas should this type of investment take place," he added.

PDM Promoters, Inc. did its first cleanup of the year last Saturday, Jan. 21, and hauled in a total of 640 lbs of trash.

Sonia Siwa, the non-profit's coordinator, said a total of 26 volunteers from the Saipan Awaodori Team and Kinpachi Restaurant took part in the monthly cleanup that began at 9am and ended at 11am.

The group picked up trash at Paseo de Marianas and inside the surroundings of Coral Tree Avenue along Beach Road in Garapan as well as along AMP Road and the old Winchell's Road.

"For the past seven years volunteers are actively involved in this program, doing its part to promote a clean and healthy local environment. The volunteers did bush-cutting, picked up litter and trash, trimmed plant and cut bushes along Paseo de Marianas," said Siwa.

She also thanked the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for waiving the fee for trash disposal.

PDM Promoters' monthly cleanups are held every Sunday and are supported by BECQ and the non-profit's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers from Kinpachi Restaurant and Saipan Awaodori Team pose for a group shot after taking part in PDM Promoters, Inc.'s first cleanup of the year at the Paseo de Marianas last Saturday.

major sponsors T-Galleria and TSL Foundation.

Siwa said T-Galleria and

TSL Foundation's support enables them to have the cleaning materials needed

for their monthly cleanups. Kinpachi Restaurant provides the meal and snacks for

the volunteers.

Volunteers of PDM Promoters will be at it again next

February when they conduct their second monthly cleanup of the year. (Mark Rabago)

## Habitual offender gets 7 and a half months for stealing a cellphone

A habitual offender who has been struggling with drug addiction was slapped with a prison sentence of seven and a half months for stealing a cellphone worth \$399 from an employee of a construction company.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Benigno Muna Sablan last week to one year in prison, all suspended except for seven and a half months, for theft.

Sablan, 35, was given credit for 44 days of time served. It means that he will be released from the Department of Corrections on June 28, 2017.

After completing the prison term, he will be placed on probation for three years. He was required to pay \$399 in restitution to the victim and write a letter of apology.

Sablan was also required to complete drug counseling.

Sablan pleaded guilty to

theft last Dec. 27 as part of a plea agreement.

According to the Office of the Attorney General, Sablan went to Star Builder's Construction in San Antonio on Oct. 31, 2016, trying to sell a 5-gallon bucket of paint. When the company's employee went inside to inquire if the contractor wanted to purchase the used paint, the defendant grabbed the employee's cellphone on top of her desk and left. A surveillance camera caught him in the act.

At the sentencing hearing last week, assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas, counsel for the government, recommended a sentence of nine months imprisonment "to allow Sablan to realize the consequences of his actions."

Barcinas said Sablan has been given leniency by the

courts in his past criminal cases and that his recent criminal actions show a complete disregard for CNMI laws, a disregard for the safety and prosperity of the community, and the livelihood of his family.

Barcinas said Sablan has been in the criminal justice system since he was just 14 years old and then graduated into the adult system where he was convicted of assault and battery and felony theft.

In addition, the prosecutor said, the defendant had two active criminal cases, but one was dismissed because the victim departed the CNMI.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, counsel for Sablan, said that her client, who suffers from drug addiction, has admitted wrongdoing and is attempting to better himself.

**» Criminal career began when he was just 14**

## NMC open spring semester

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Jan. 17 marked the start of the spring semester of 2017 for the Northern Marianas College and its first day of the year.

NMC's focus this semester is the Prior Learning Assessment Program, which allows students under this program to gain college credits through knowledge gained from job experience and job training.

"[NMC] has been getting a great response from the community," said Frankie Eliptico, NMC's director of institutional advancement. "We were able to emphasize the prior learning assessment program this spring semester."

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said the numbers of PLA enrollees this year is a big improve-

ment compared to previous years.

"There are four sections of the PLA program right now, which is over 100 students. There are more [classes of PLA] to open soon," said Fernandez.

Eliptico said that less than 10 students enrolled in the PLA program last school year.

In contrast, the number of regular NMC students is at over 1,000.

"We are still in the registration period this week, so the final number is yet to be confirmed," he said. "We have over 1,000 students [enrolled] already," he added. "Students are still adding and dropping schedules, so the final number of students can not be confirmed."

NMC students themselves are optimistic.

"The day is going pretty

good. It's just the books—it's really hard to try and find books. ...I am looking forward to all the challenges that are coming this semester," said Joseph Guerrero Jr., a student majoring in criminal justice.

Gemma Somol, a student of NMC's bachelor's degree course business management, thinks that NMC has seen a lot of improvements on campus.

"The bookstore was just recently renovated. We don't have a student center, but according the president Fernandez, a 24-hour room would be open for students who would like to study. I also noticed that there are more classrooms, and a lot of other things have been approved," she said.

The former NMC student center was wrecked by Typhoon Soudelor last August 2015 and is now being converted into a computer room for students.



## Ex-Finance staff in embezzlement case pleads guilty

A former Department of Finance employee who was arrested in 2015 for embezzling \$3,500 that was paid by some clients of the Members Home Loan program pleaded guilty on Friday to theft.

Ana Castro Cepeda will be sentenced on April 18, 2017.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo vacated the jury trial set for Feb. 6, 2017, and ordered the Office of the Adult Probation

to submit a presentence investigation report as soon as possible.

The judge said Cepeda shall be sentenced to two years imprisonment, all suspended except for a range of time served to one year, depending upon his discretion which shall be determined at the April 18 sentencing hearing.

As part of the parties' plea deal, assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley, counsel

for the government, will recommend a sentence of one year imprisonment, followed by two years of probation.

Cepeda will be required to pay full restitution to \$2,500 to Fermin Sakisat, and \$1,000 to David and Doris Atalig.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as counsel for Cepeda.

Cepeda is accused of accepting cash payments on behalf of Finance and then keeping and ultimately spending the monies she received from April 7, 2015, to Aug. 31, 2015.

Cepeda was arrested in October 2015 on charges of five

counts of theft or embezzlement, five counts of theft by unlawful taking or disposition, five counts of theft by deception, and five counts of theft by failure to make required

disposition of funds received.

OPA chief investigator Juan M. Santos stated in his report that their investigation started on September 2015 after Finance Secretary Larrisa Lar-

son and the NMI Retirement Fund comptroller turned over information about thefts of funds involving a Members Home Loan client's payment. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## Rota Terminal opposes request to bar more claimants against vessel

Rota Terminal & Transfer Co. Inc. has asked the federal court to deny Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto's motion to bar any more parties from intervening in his lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owners/operators of cargo ship M/V Luta.

Rota Terminal, through counsel Janet H. King, said Yamamoto attempts to mix together lien claimants and owners of M/V Luta for the purposes of imposing a filing deadline against intervenors.

King asserted that the only deadline mentioned in the NMI Admiralty Local Rules and supplemental rules for maritime lien claimants to file a complaint in interventions is one to be "fixed by the court," and because the District Court has not yet fixed the deadline, the complaint filed by Rota Terminal is timely and Yamamoto's motion for default should be denied.

King said parties with ownership interests are distinct from parties with claims against M/V Luta.

She said deadlines for parties with ownership interests in the ship do not apply to parties with claims against the vessel.

While it may be true that persons claiming an ownership interest in the ship were required to file a statement of interest within 10 days, the same deadline does not apply to persons with claims against the vessel, King said.

She said Yamamoto's own notice of arrest draws a distinction between the two, and specifies that the 10-day deadline applies to owners, while a "time fixed by the court" applies to maritime lien claimants.

King said Rota Terminal has complied with LAR E(11), the only local admiralty rule expressly referencing the intervenors.

King said LAR E(11)(a) states "when a vessel or other party has been arrested, attached, or garnished, and is in the hands of the Marshal or substitute custodian, anyone having a claim against the vessel or property is required to present the claim by filing an intervening complaint and obtain a warrant of arrest, and not by filing an original

complaint, unless otherwise ordered by a judicial officer."

The LAR, she said, does not require lien claimants to file a statement of interest or an answer.

Rota Terminal is claiming that M/V Luta owes the company a total of \$165,766 in services, costs, fees, and interest.

King stated in the complaint of intervention that Luta Mermaid LLC president Abelina T. Mendiola and officers of Rota Terminal entered into an oral agreement by which Rota Terminal agreed to supply necessities to M/V Luta in exchange for compensation.

From March 17, 2016, to Oct. 31, 2016, Rota Terminal provided necessities to M/V Luta such as stevedoring services, agency services, notice of arrival clearances, vessel clearances, cargo clearances, government clearances, cargo booking services, and administrative services.

King said payment of the invoices totaling \$110,511 is now due and owing.

Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto has asked the court to enter a default judgment against any parties who have not filed statements of interest or intervened in his lawsuit.

In Yamamoto's motion, attorney George Lloyd Hasselback said since the notice requirements have been met and the time for filing a claim has expired, the District Court should enter a default judgment against any parties who have not appeared or intervened.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has that M/V Luta be sold for a minimum bid of \$550,000.

Three groups have already intervened in Yamamoto's lawsuit. They are former captain of M/V Luta and six crew members, Long Consulting LLC, and Norton Lilly International.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Hocog and the owner/operators of M/V Luta for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship. The National Maritime Services was then appointed as custodian of the vessel. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## DPW staff accused of sexually abusing girl

The Office of the Attorney General has charged an employee of the Department of Public Works of sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl.

David Blanco Santos, 50, was charged with one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and one count of disturbing the peace.

Saipan Tribune learned that Santos was not arrested, but penal summons was issued on

Dec. 28, 2016, ordering him to appear in the Superior Court yesterday at 9am for his arraignment.

Santos appeared yesterday with his counsel, assistant public defender Nancy Diminski. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government. Santos pleaded not guilty.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja set a status confer-

ence for tomorrow, Wednesday, at 9:30am.

According to the information, Santos sexually abused the girl on Aug. 2, 2016, on Saipan.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. filed the charges on Dec. 27, 2016.

Santos, a resident of Kagman III, is brother of former chief prosecutor and representative Rosemond Santos, Saipan Tribune learned. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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## MISSION

From Page 1

festivities.

Emily Jones, a former Marianas High School student and now a freshman at American University in Washington, D.C., said: "I'm so excited to be here. I think it's a great, incredible experience, definitely not something that people I know my age are able to experience this, so I think it's just truly amazing to be here with all these incredible people."

Jones, who said Torres personally invited her to the gala, especially enjoyed seeing the cultural attire of some guests. Some participants showed up in Pacific Island dresses while some women were seen in Taiwanese dance dresses.

Thursday's pre-inaugural

ball was the organization's first major activity in more than a decade.

"The organization has been around for many, many years. It's been dormant for about a decade. Obviously, we haven't had a Republican president in a while," Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo told *Saipan Tribune* last week.

Calvo and Torres co-chair the Asian American Pacific Islander organization and are the first Pacific islanders to do so.

CNMI Republican Party president James Ada called the Torres and Calvos' appointment to the AAPI organization "history in the making."

In planning for the gala itself, Ada said, "It took months and, you know, my hats off to the AAPI members, especially the people who went out to facilitate

this event for this evening."

But the gala and the experience represented more than just a celebration. CNMI GOP vice chair Vincent Torres told *Saipan Tribune*, "We're here on a mission to establish a positive relationship between the CNMI, the [Republican National Committee] and the Executive Branch and the Legislature. So the whole time that we're here, we've been attending every single meeting with the RNC so that we get to know all of those people, the chairmen and new ones that got elected."

He told *Saipan Tribune* it's not only about hoping to have a greater voice in the new administration—he said they are making it happen now. "Gov. Torres had a series of meetings with key GOP in the days be-

fore the inauguration festivities in Washington, D.C."

Calvo echoed the importance of teamwork. He said he anticipates meeting with the Republican leadership, especially as the National Governor's Association will be meeting next month. He also explained it will be important for Guam and the CNMI to work collaboratively on issues involving healthcare, security, immigration and the environment in the new administration.

The crowded AAPI gala signaled an uptick in Asian American and Pacific Islander participation in the Republican Party. "When you see the results of the election, where Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders made the biggest swing, it was a double-digit swing of about 11 percent

from what was the results of 2012. So we're energized, this organization now is, as you can see, vibrant. We intend to use this as a springboard for moving forward," said Calvo.

It's the resurgence of the AAPI participation that CNMI's Alex Sablan said will help to improve participation and representation by Asian American and Pacific Islanders in each state and territory in the nation. Sablan was part of the CNMI delegation at the gala and attended the Trump's inauguration on Friday.

Gov. Torres told *Saipan Tribune* he began supporting President Trump after he received a personal phone call during the campaign last year. "It was the only candidate that has reached out at that level and to take our issue at a national level," Torres explained.

"That is a great opportunity and I believe he will do great for America."

Torres said that now is the time to rally around Trump.

"I've been criticized so many times, you always get questioned what you do, how you do things. In due time, it's ours to work with in that position. Criticism comes with the territory but when you're given that opportunity, you got to step up and make sure that you do what you're telling people to do and protect and create jobs, increase the economy and so forth. And so now that he is given that opportunity, despite all the criticism and the setback and the unfairness and so on, the bottom line is the people, through their way of political process, he is now our President."



JILLIAN ANGELINE

President Donald J. Trump is sworn into office on Inauguration Day Friday, Jan. 20 in front of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. in front of thousands of people, including top officials. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and other CNMI officials were among the throngs of people in attendance at the ceremony.

## EXTEND

From Page 1

legally stay and work in the Commonwealth. Employers renew their workers' CW1 visas yearly, with a numerical cap that will be reduced at every start of each fiscal year. The program ends on Dec. 31, 2019, but CNMI officials are requesting for another extension.

Both panels are now asking the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to work with the U.S. De-

partment of Labor to include the CNMI in its successful federal programs that encourages workforce development.

Getting these programs here to the CNMI would increase the Commonwealth's ability and potential to train and hire U.S. qualified workers in preparation for the end of the CW1 program.

Workforce development programs like Wagner-Peyser—from the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 signed by then President Franklin D. Roosevelt—Job Corps, and Trade Adjustment Assistance in-

crease the CNMI's ability in training and hiring U.S. qualified employees in preparation for the end of the CW1 transition period.

Wagner-Peyser created the U.S. Employment Service that coordinates public employment services so it could provide labor exchange and job finding assistance to individuals who are looking for work and employers that are hiring.

Esther Kia'aina, the former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs and the U.S. representative to the 902

talks, discussed the possibility of extending these workforce development programs to the CNMI with U.S. Labor Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Inter-government Affairs Adri Jayaratne in September last year.

Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are eligible for these programs, along with several U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Extending these to the CNMI and American Samoa "would ensure all the territories are treated equally."

This, however, requires an

act of Congress, along with extending the Trade Adjustment Assistance eligibility and establishing a Job Corps training center in the CNMI. The Job Corps program would also need Congress to appropriate funding in building a new center.

"Although federal money from another department could potentially be used to build a Job Corps Center, [CNMI residents] are eligible to train at other [JCC] locations such as Hawaii. Finding ways to facilitate sending CNMI youths to

other [JCC] locations may be a more cost-effective and timesaving process," the 902 report states.

Both Kia'aina and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres—the CNMI representative on the 902 panel—also support congressional action so the CNMI would be eligible for the earned income tax credit and TAA. "The EITC in particular will incentivize recipients of social services to enter the labor force and help reduce the CNMI's reliance on CW workers," the report added.



# NMPASI laments SCOTUS case on students with disabilities

In what disability rights advocates are saying is “the most significant special-education issue to reach the U.S. Supreme Court in three decades,” *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District* involves a dispute over the level of education that public schools must provide to millions of children with disabilities in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The Supreme Court rendered its first opinion on the intricacies of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and its “free appropriate public education” mandate in the case of *Board of Education v. Rowley* 458 U.S. 176 (1982). The Rowley case clearly states that FAPE must be “tailored to the unique needs of the handicapped child by means of an individualized educational program,” thereby emphasizing the critical principle of individuality and it also explains the central importance of considering each student’s educational potential when seeking to determine whether a student is receiving sufficient educational benefit. But in so doing, the high court famously left unanswered the question of “how much benefit is sufficient under the IDEA’s FAPE mandate,” stating only that “we do not attempt today to establish any one test for determining the adequacy of educational benefits conferred upon all children covered by the Act.” The lower courts are divided on the issue, meaning that some states strive to provide greater levels of educational benefit than others and that students in certain states

can expect more from their public education than others.

The argument currently before the U.S. Supreme Court is on whether public schools “owe disabled children ‘some’ educational benefit—which courts have determined to mean just-above-trivial progress—or whether students legally deserve something more: a substantial, ‘meaningful’ benefit” (Brown, *Washington Post*). This has caught the attention of local advocates at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., otherwise known as NMPASI.

“So much of what we have stood and advocated for all these years,” according to Jim Rayphand, NMPASI’s executive director, “is that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ‘is meant not just to open the schoolhouse door to disabled children...but also to make sure that those children get an education that gives them a shot at equal opportunity, independent life and full participation in society’” (Brown, *Washington Post*).

Lawyer and NMPASI board member Rob Torres thinks that “nothing can be more challenging for a parent of a child with a disability than to advocate for an appropriate education. That child will become an adult and the parent’s greatest challenge and fear is to ensure he or she grows up capable to succeed with a great education. The standard remains here with PSS.”

The case was brought by the family of a boy diagnosed with autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. His conditions complicated

his efforts to communicate and socialize, and that left him struggling with phobias and compulsive behaviors. Noting that their son made almost no academic or social progress during his time in public school, the parents eventually withdrew him and placed him in a private school where they say he made progress immediately. Accordingly they sought reimbursement for the private school tuition under the pretext that their son was denied a “free appropriate public education.”

“This is without question

a close case,” Judge Timothy Tykovich wrote in his opinion for the 10th Circuit. It is clear, he continued, that Drew is thriving at the private school. “But it is not the district’s burden to pay for his placement there when Drew was making some progress under its tutelage. That is all that is required” (Brown, *Washington Post*).

Jimmy Sablan, NMPASI’s program manager, said, “This is an age-old point of contention trying to draw a line between asking for the Cadillac when schools say they only need to provide a

Buick—the standard to date has been what’s most ‘appropriate’ which is very subjective and usually means that ‘the squeaky wheel gets the grease.’”

Rayphand concludes: “Frankly, I’m not surprised that a school system would argue for a minimum stan-

dard—it’s easier to provide—but I can’t be convinced that a push for anything less than a free appropriate public education that is ‘meaningful’ in the context of becoming a contributing member of society would be the right thing for any of our students (with disabilities or otherwise).”

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- Coordinates enforcement of drug court orders including curfews and home detention with CNMI Drug Court Probation Officer and Law Enforcement Officers;
- Maintains contact with local law enforcement agencies, Drug Court Judge, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the Attorney General, employers, local social service agencies, schools and others;
- Coordinates investigations in preparation of court-ordered reports staffing and hearings;
- Maintains case records and statistical data for evaluation purposes and for submission to the Drug Court Manager;
- Attends and participates in Drug Court staffings and hearings;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conferences, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Follows Court policy for monitoring payments ordered by the Court. The payments to be monitored include, but are not limited to, restitution, fine, child supports, etc.;
- Works closely with Drug Court Caseworkers to support case management, coordination of services and monitoring;
- Conducts gender-specific observed drug testing in accordance with CNMI Drug Court protocols; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained an associate's degree from a recognized college or university in criminal or behavioral science or related field. Have four (4) years experience in the law enforcement or other related experience. Applicant must have a professional demeanor and be able to exercise good judgment in stressful situations. The ability to maintain client confidentiality at all times is imperative. Report writing skills and case management experience would be preferred. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered. Criminal record check will be conducted. Drug test designated position. Have a valid driver's license and be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel; must be knowledgeable about the use of data systems.

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$25,000 - \$28,000 annually.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources  
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670)236-9818  
Fax. (670) 236-9702  
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This internal job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

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### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

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Office of the Clerk of Court  
Superior Court  
SAIPAN

**DUTIES:** This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Sort and arrange documents and files in appropriate file folders; handle reproduction of court documents and related forms; verify and issue criminal record clearances; verify and issue traffic record clearances; ensure file readiness for use in court hearings;
- Indexes records and information;
- May conduct limited research of records for information such as writs, court judgments or verification/location of other related records or information;
- Provides general reception of visitors and telephone clients by assisting them at the counter and, if necessary, routing them through proper personnel or procedures;
- Performs typing assignments as required;
- Inputs various data onto Justware case management database;
- Operates bar coding/file maintenance system;
- Assists with imaging of documents;
- Follows standard operating procedures for organization of case files and document tracking;
- May run errands for the office, including but not limited to, picking up and delivery of mail within and outside the courts; and
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Must have a high school diploma or equivalent and should have a minimum of three (3) years experience in legal, law enforcement or court work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$16,000 - \$18,000 annually.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

# Middle school broken into, food items stolen

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A middle school in Afetna was broken into and lost food items from its pantry.

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School principal James Sablan suspects the burglar or burglars broke into the school between the hours of Sunday evening and early hours of Monday morning.

Sablan believes the burglars climbed the locked fence surrounding the school before shattering the window protected by a shutter, allowing burglars to open the window and access the storage room of the cafeteria.

“The cafeteria people came in and noticed that the storage room was open,” said Sablan. “After further investigation, [the cafeteria personnel] realized that somebody broke the glass window, granting access to the storage room.”

The burglars took only food items from the FMS cafeteria such as fruits, chocolate milk cartons, and water bottles, to name a few.

“Money and equipment-wise, none was lost,” said Sablan.

FMS has security cameras in certain parts of the school as a means to deter burglar-



ERWIN ENCINARES

Burglars shattered this window of the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School cafeteria.

ies such as this, but none were installed in the cafeteria—the burglar’s point of entry.

FMS has experienced several burglaries throughout 2016, the worst one resulting in the loss of several laptops in July. The laptops were reportedly retrieved later.

The incident has already been reported to both the Board of Education and the authorities.

“We are really hoping to increase the security measures taken by the schools to protect the students’ equipment, instructional materials, and everything else in the campus,” said Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero. “We don’t necessarily have funding for

security, but we have to be very creative in ensuring that we do what we can to protect the schools.”

Deleon Guerrero said it was too early to determine whether funding would be allocated for the security of schools.

“The [budget] review team would be looking into that,” she said.

Deleon Guerrero said the budget review has yet to start due to a new budgeting process involving stakeholders, management personnel, and the commissioner’s office.

“We are going to refine [the budget] as we move along, but I think that everybody is excited and are happy to be participating. Their reviews begin [today],” she added.

# CUC is billed \$9.63M for oil cleanup work

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard have billed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. approximately \$9.63

million for oil contamination cleanup work at the Rota and Saipan power plants. CUC has yet to pay these assessments.

CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok expects CUC to be billed added costs by EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard for past and on-going cleanup work on Rota and Saipan.

These matters were in CUC’s status report

filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday. District Court designated Judge David Carter ordered CUC to prepare a status report in preparation for a status conference on Feb. 21, 2017.

For the Rota cleanup, EPA assessed CUC approximately \$2.13 million, while the U.S. Coast Guard assessed CUC \$3.4 million, Sirok said.

For the Saipan cleanup, Sirok said the U.S. Coast Guard assessed CUC about \$4.1 million.

He said the Rota site has historically been impacted with diesel and PCB (transformer oil) releases into the soil and groundwater.

He said EPA conducted work at the Rota site as early as 2009, but most of their efforts were conducted from 2011 through 2013.

Sirok said CUC did not par-

ticipate in those investigations.

As a result of EPA’s work, EPA’s on-scene coordinator, Michelle Rogow, asked on Feb. 14, 2013, for approval for costs through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability

Act to clean up the Rota power plant site, Sirok said.


The lawyer said Rota contamination

cleanup work has been conducted and posted for cost recovery under CERCLA by EPA and under the Oil Pollution Act through the National Pollution Funds Center by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Sirok said there is some confusion of what contamination cleanup work or contamination assessment work, if any, is currently ongoing by EPA on Rota and on Saipan.

He said CUC wants to have this item put on the agenda for discussion during the February 2017 status conference.

Sirok said CUC has had minimal discussions with EPA and the U.S. Department of Justice on this issue and has previously informed EPA and DOJ of CUC’s desire for further discussion on its during the February status conference.



**SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
Office of the Mayor  
Municipality of Saipan

### NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board hereby gives notice of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting set for Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

#### A G E N D A

I. Preliminary Matters  
1. Roll Call  
2. Adoption of Agenda  
3. Adoption of Minutes from December 28, 2016

II. Public Comments

III. Reports  
1. Administrator  
2. Chair  
3. COMMITTEES  
a. Committee on Awards  
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance  
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures  
d. Committee on Program and Development  
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. Old Business  
1. SHEFA on Disability

V. New Business  
1. Spring 2017 Application Status  
2. Amended CGPA for new applicants  
3. Election of Officers

VI. Executive Session – Appeals (closed)

VII. Miscellaneous

VIII. Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.




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# MVA frets over illegal activities at Forbidden

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has expressed disappointment over a report of illegal activities at a popular tourist site that was reported last week to a CNMI lawmaker.

A report of Illegal fishing at the Forbidden Island, a

protected sanctuary, reached the ears of Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) last Jan. 16, prompting him to bring the matter to the Division of Fish and Wildlife for prompt investigation.

It was earlier reported that a Korean tour company has been allegedly fishing at the Forbidden Island area several times.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune* that the incident should immediately be addressed by “[sending] a strong signal to everyone that this type of behavior will not be tolerated.”

“The MVA is aware of reports that a group of visitors were caught fishing at the Forbidden Island Marine

Sanctuary. We are deeply disturbed by this occurrence,” he said, when asked about the incident.

Although the MVA is a marketing agency as opposed to a law enforcement agency, MVA fully supports protecting the seven marine sanctuaries of the CNMI, Concepcion said.

“If the violators are found

guilty of wrongdoing [MVA has] no objections to having the business license of responsible parties revoked and fined the maximum penalty allowed by law,” he said.

“We cannot permit any leeway on these matters. We must send a strong signal to everyone that this type of behavior will not be tolerated and that there are severe consequences for breaking the law,” he added.

Concepcion said MVA will continue to do its part to help protect the priceless natural resources of the CNMI.

“The MVA will continue to educate our partners in the tourism industry of the importance of preserving marine life and respecting marine sanctuaries in the CNMI,” he said.

aries in the CNMI,” he said.

The CNMI has seven marine protected areas with five no-take marine reserves, meaning that extraction of sand, fish and coral, as well as the alteration of their habitats is strictly prohibited by several CNMI laws.

The Forbidden Island is one of five no-take marine reserves in the CNMI. The others are the Bird Island marine sanctuary, Managaha marine conservation area, Rota’s Sasanhaya Bay Fish reserve, and Tinian marine reserve, with the last two being the only no-take marine reserves on their respective islands.

Division of Fish and Wildlife is now investigating the matter.

## Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy 2017 on Feb. 25

The United Filipino Organization will hold its first signature event for 2017 when it hosts the 4th Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy on Feb. 25 at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

UFO is now accepting applicants/candidates for the competition, which is open to girls 13-17 years old and must at least be half Filipino. The winner will serve as UFO’s goodwill am-

bassador.

Aside from the overall winner, the pageant will also have special awards for Miss Photogenic, Miss Charity, Best in Talent, Best in Evening Gown, and Star of the Night. All candidates will receive cash prizes, gift certificates, sashes, and bouquets.

UFO president Marlon Regaton said all candidates will

undergo training sessions in personality development, table etiquette, beauty and catwalk tips, and pointers for the question-and-answer portion of the competition.

He said candidates from previous stagings of the pageant are eligible to join as long as they submit all the requirements.

Joel Vallega will serve as

pageant coordinator under the supervision of UFO events director Ernie Molina.

Deadline for submission of applications is on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 5pm. All interested applicants may contact Molina at 789-8212; UFO secretary Bok Ekano at 285-9756; Evelyn Deazeta at 989-3845; or Lyn Dela Cruz at 789-8386. *(Mark Rabago)*

## Judge rejects plea deal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_dela torre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has rejected a plea agreement that recommends no prison term and the erasure of the criminal conviction of a 20-year-old man accused of stealing a pit bull puppy.

At the hearing on Wednesday, Camacho said the plea agreement entered by the parties in the case against David A. Santos Jr. is rejected because it included expungement of a criminal conviction and “is not in the best interest of the public.”

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, counsel for Santos, argued that Santos was only 19 when the alleged crimes occurred.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr., counsel for the government, argued that the Department of

Corrections should not spend money on Santos.

Camacho found the parties’ arguments unpersuasive.

Camacho also asked the parties if there are reasons that serve the public’s interest such as if Santos cooperated and gave information that led to the arrest and conviction of other criminals.

Camacho set the bench trial for March 27, 2017, at 9am.

Under the proposed plea agreement, Santos would plead guilty to theft.

The government agreed to recommend expungement of his conviction. The government also agreed to recommend, among other terms, a one-year imprisonment, all suspended.

According to the charging documents, Santos stole a pit bull puppy from its owner’s home on Saipan on Aug. 5, 2016. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



### FUN RUN

Imperial Pacific International CSR team donated refreshments, and provided assistance to the Marianas Visitors Authority in setting up the event grounds of last weekend’s Marianas Sunset 5K Fun Run.

IPI-CSR



IPI-CSR

Imperial Pacific International CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz, Saipan Mayor David Apatang and MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion are all smiles at the Marianas Sunset 5K Fun Run.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Workshop for parents/guardians at TMS

The Tanapag Middle School will have an upcoming Parent Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, from 8am to 1:30pm. The workshop is open to parents and guardians of TMS. The theme of the workshop is “Nurturing the Whole Child.” There will be raffle prizes, student performances, lunch and refreshments!

Tanapag Middle School parents/guardians must pre-register for this workshop on or before Friday, Jan. 27, 2017. Registration forms were sent home with your children, or can be obtained from the main office. Submit these forms to your child’s teacher or the main office. You may call 664-3425 or

664-3426 should you have any questions. *(TMS)*

#### Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan’s Chamolinian Room. Guest speakers will be Lynn Tenorio and Tanya Camacho, research assistants, University of Guam. Their presentation will be on the betel nut intervention trial study here on Saipan. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. *(CCA)*



# MCS student named one of nation's top readers

Leyonne Tolentino, a fifth grade student at Mount Carmel School, was recently recognized by Achieve3000 as one of the nation's top readers two years in a row. Achieve3000 consultant Troy Akiyama visited the school to personally congratulate Tolentino and his teacher, Mila Calibo, along with school principal Frances Taimanao.

Achieve3000 is a nationally recognized program that offers online literacy instructional and assessment services across disciplines to improve student reading. Mount Carmel School has been using the program

for two years to boost student literacy as well as encourage reading in various subjects.

Achieve3000 CEO Saki Dodelson reached out to personally congratulate Tolentino. "I was so excited to hear about Leyonne Tolentino's accomplishment."

Dodelson emphasized how important this accomplishment is. "Being recognized as a worldwide winner twice is no small feat and can only be a result of a lot of hard work. We are excited to play a part in helping Leyonne achieve literacy success."

MCS president Galvin De-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School student Leyonne Tolentino, second from left, was recently recognized by Achieve3000 for being one of the nation's top readers two years in a row. Achieve3000 consultant Troy Akiyama, left, presented a certificate of achievement to Tolentino, his teacher, Mila Calibo, right, and school principal Frances Taimanao, second from right.

## MCS to join Catholic Schools Week celebration

Later this month, the CNMI's three Catholic schools—Mount Carmel School on Saipan, Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center on Saipan, and Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota—will join the rest of the nation in celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2017.

This year's CSW theme speaks to the holistic framework of Catholic education by proclaiming, "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service." As the National Catholic Educational Association announced, "the theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities—small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged."

Mount Carmel School has prepared a full week of events that are aligned with CSW themes for each day of the week. On Sunday, Jan. 29, at 9am, the focus will be on "Catholic Schools in our Parishes" as MCS students converge on Mount Carmel Cathedral to kick off CSW 2017 with a Eucharistic celebration. On Monday, the focus shifts to "Catholic Schools in our Community" as MCS junior high and high school students engage in different activities that support community services. Elementary school students will make banners expressing their appreciation for the school's many donors and supporters. Tuesday will be dedicated to "Catholic Schools in our Faculty and Staff." On that day, MCS will hold an appreciation program for faculty and staff, in which the 2017 Teacher of the Year will be announced. On Wednesday, MCS will celebrate "Cath-

olic Schools in our Vocations" with a Eucharistic celebration, which will be followed by a vocations talk and other activities honoring vocations. MCS will shift its attention on Thursday to the rest of the country with "Catholic Schools in our Nation" as students honor the many ways that volunteer groups have contributed. Friday morning's emphasis will be on "Catholic Schools in our Students" with MCS students participating in a roadside waving in the morning, followed by field activities and demonstrations. Friday night will highlight "Catholic Schools in our Families" with the school's signature CSW event, Family Night. Held on the school grounds beginning at 6pm, Family Night will feature dinner, entertainment, and the presentation of a new award, Parents of the Year.

The school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week will conclude with the "Night with the Knights" AlumK-night fundraising banquet on Saturday. The "Night with the Knights" will feature a music video montage of the school's history, raffle prizes, and entertainment. The event will also include the announcement of the 2017 AlumKnight of the Year. Tickets for the Night with the Knights are \$50 each and can be purchased at the school's Business Office or from AlumKnights. For more information, call 234-6184 or email Priscilla Dela Cruz at presdelacruz@gmail.com.

The celebration of Catholic Schools Week began as an annual event in 1974. Catholic Schools Week and the National Marketing Campaign are joint projects of the National Catholic Educational Association, the world's largest private professional education association, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the national public policy organization of U.S. bishops. (MCS)

leon Guerrero echoed Dodelson's excitement. "We are very proud of Leyonne and his teacher, Mrs. Calibo, for demonstrating the great benefits of Achieve3000. ... We also thank Achieve3000 for reaching out to our school community every year to ensure that all our stu-

dents benefit."

According to its website, Achieve3000 is the leader in online differentiated instruction, serving millions of students worldwide. For nearly 15 years, the company has been reaching students at their precise Lexile reading levels

to deliver significant reading gains—often double to triple the expected gains. Based on decades of scientific research, Achieve3000 patented an online methodology for differentiated instruction provides engaging, nonfiction content that supports core curriculum,

## FEMA official lauds local community spirit

The spirit showed by those involved in the recovery efforts in the community following Typhoon Soudelor has evoked the admiration of one Federal Emergency Management Agency official.

Communities in the U.S. mainland rocked by calamities could learn a thing or two from the recovery efforts on Saipan, said FEMA emergency management specialist Zina Manalo, who is originally from Guam.

"If anybody from the mainland wants to see how it works come here because this is what we call a community pulling each other together," she recounted telling FEMA management when asked how the Soudelor recovery effort was going after returning home to Washington, D.C. for the Christmas holidays.

Manalo, who was also involved in recovery efforts after Katrina and Sandy in the mainland, said that bouncing back from a disaster like Soudelor is a long and arduous process and she's glad that the challenges the typhoon brought only made the island community stronger.

"It's going to be a bumpy road, but with everything that I've seen since I came to this island six months ago, you guys have really come a long way. With strong leaders and strong government to support our CNMI citizens and those who are living here, it takes a lot for us to all come together and work as one and just putting everything aside to help each other," she said.

Manalo also lauded the efforts of Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Ef-

orts and its director, Jenny Hegland, and encouraged them to continue all their hard work in helping the community get back on its feet.

"Sometimes we also think we're not making progress but it takes little steps to getting to that goal that Jenny and CARE has to make everything happen," she said.

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios, who like Manalo spoke during Tuesday's CARE annual meeting at the Governor's Office conference room, said that Saipan being a small and close-knit community made it easier for its residents to coalesce and be there for each other after Soudelor struck in August 2015.

"The value of being in a small community is having a sense of caring for each other. We hope to continue that

work," he said.

Hegland said the organization's success is a testament to the cooperation and help they've received from everyone.

"Our success is in the strength of our network. Businesses that give and volunteers have done that. Please keep caring and keep paying attention as the further we get away from the typhoon, the sooner we forget about the disaster," she said.

CARE's 2016 Impact Report listed the following partners: American Red Cross, FEMA, TSL Foundation, Imperial Pacific International, Ltd., Tournament of Champions, World Renew, Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Bridge Capital, LLC, World Resort Saipan, and Mennonite Disaster Service. They donated more than \$20,000 for long-term recovery in the wake of Soudelor. (Mark Rabago)



## NEW GRADUATES

Marianas High School students pose with their certificates of completion after graduating from the Latte Training Academy Fall 2016 Hotel and Hospitality Certification Course.

ERWIN ENCINARES



# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

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### EDITORIAL

## Watch Trump's deeds more than words

Everyone stands when the president enters the room.

It's protocol, a deserved sign of respect for the office and the American people who select its occupant.

Donald J. Trump, who stood at the West Front of the Capitol on Friday and swore an oath, deserves every ounce of that respect—for as long as he is in office.

He won't be everybody's friend or hero, but he is now everybody's president.

Plenty of people have reason to doubt and distrust.

Dozens of members of Congress planned to boycott the inauguration after Trump disparaged civil rights legend and Georgia Congressman John Lewis.

Hundreds of thousands of women plan a march in Washington on Saturday—while perhaps as many more show solidarity in similar marches in cities across the U.S.

Organizers say marchers want to express “concern and fear” about campaign rhetoric from Trump that “insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us—immigrants of all statuses, Muslims and those of diverse religious faiths, people who identify as LGBTQIA, Native people, Black and Brown people, people with disabilities, survivors of sexual assault.”

Others still disagree with, even dispute, the results of November's election. But the election is over.

Trump's a businessman and a showman. All we've had to judge him by are his business (he's done very well for himself) and his words—which, like those of any showman, are crafted to draw attention.

Having taken the oath, his deeds from this point forward push everything else to the background. What he says still counts, but what he does or fails to do counts even more.

No one should take that to heart more than the nation's news media.

Trump has been openly hostile to the press for many months. He has clashed head to head with reporters from some of the nation's largest news organizations.

Trump doesn't need the news media to transmit his words to the public, long a traditional role of the press. He has Twitter and other social media for that.

Far more important is the news media's role in reporting the accomplishments, mistakes, deeds and misdeeds behind those words.

Trump may label unfavorable stories as fake news, but the people of America can judge by his deeds whether they will still respect him four years from now.

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## Trump's inaugural: New tone, same goals

By JULES WITCOVER  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—New President Donald Trump adopted a generally more civil and conciliatory tone in his inaugural address while doubling down on his campaign allegation that Washington politicians were out for themselves, a situation he said was going the change fast.

“For too long, a small group in our nation's Capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost,” Trump said. “Washington flourished, but the people did not share in its wealth.”

“Politicians prospered,” he went on. “But the jobs left and the factories closed. The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country. Their victories have not been your victories. ... And while they celebrated in our nation's capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land.”

He assured them: “The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer. Everyone is listening to you now.”

After reciting a catalogue of woes, from deindustrialization to urban crime and addiction, he vowed, “This American carnage stops right here and it stops right now.”

These words were aimed squarely at Trump's voters in Rust Belt states such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio that gave him his Electoral College victory. But in targeting politicians in Washington, the message also dovetailed cleverly with his campaign promise to “drain the swamp” there.

In the same way, Trump argued for his outsider break from his Republican Party establishment, saying, “What truly matters is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people.” It was an observation, however, that may not have sat well with GOP members of Congress on whom his legislative agenda will depend.

Abandoning at least for this somber occasion his campaign menu of invective, insults and general disrespect toward women and minorities, Trump zeroed in on the central message of America First, vowing that his administration would focus on “two simple rules: Buy American and hire American.”

He charged: “One by one, the factories shuttered and left our shores, with not even a thought about the millions and millions

of American workers that were left behind. The wealth of our middle class has been ripped from their homes and then redistributed all across the world.”

Of the tradition of the peaceful transition of national power, its current beneficiary declared “we are not merely transferring power from one Administration to another, or from one party to another—but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the people.”

The distinction was a direct nod to what he likes to call a “movement” of his own. Addressing “all Americans, in every city near and far, small and large, from mountain to mountain, from ocean to ocean,” he said, “You will never be ignored again.”

As for foreign policy, Trump chose to focus generally on his trade and immigration hot-button positions, complaining that American has “enriched foreign industry at the expense of American industry” and subsidized “armies of other countries while allowing for the very sad depletion of our military.”

Concerning fears in Europe over his disparagement of NATO and the European Union, Trump offered only that “we will reinforce old alliances and form new ones, and unite the civilized world against radical Islamic terrorism, which we will eradicate from the face of the Earth.” Of the Russian hacking into the election that brought him to where he now was, he was uncharacteristically silent.

For all of Trump's modulated tone, near the end he allowed himself what could be taken as a personal slap at Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, the civil rights icon and survivor of the 1965 “Blood Sunday” march in Selma, who has declared Trump's election “not legitimate” and who boycotted his inauguration.

The new president repeated words he used in a tweet attacking Lewis, saying, “We will no longer accept politicians who are all talk and no action—constantly complaining but never doing anything about it.”

This slur seemed a clear hint that Trump's otherwise moderate inauguration language was a one-time-only deviation from the incivility with which the country became all too familiar during his run for the lofty office he now occupies. As he himself might tweet: “Sad!”

Jules Witcover's latest book is *The American Vice Presidency: From Irrelevance to Power*, published by Smithsonian Books. You can respond to this column at [juleswitcover@comcast.net](mailto:juleswitcover@comcast.net).



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## Settle in for the weirdest show on Earth

So much for the honeymoon. Donald Trump entered the White House as the least-popular president in modern times, according to a number of major polls. Of course, everyone knows the polls are rigged and the news is fake.

But there is no turning back from this reality: Ringling Bros. has closed, but the real circus is about to begin.

Trump gave everyone a taste of what is to come during the transition, which he spent lashing out via Twitter and parading washed up celebs and cabinet wannabes to kiss his ring. Trump has shown no signs of grasping the enormity of the office, let alone trying to unite the country. It's all one big reality show based on nothing but self-aggrandizement.

Kellyanne Conway, Trump's counselor, wants everyone to judge Trump by what is in his heart rather than what comes out of his mouth. That's hard to do, especially when he sends petty tweets about Meryl Streep, "Saturday Night Live" doppelganger Alec Baldwin, and a Carrier union boss in Indiana. Attacking civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis demeans the presidency and makes Trump appear small.

Even more reckless is Trump's use of Twitter to slam the U.S. intelligence community or provoke China. The same goes for calling the NATO alliance "obsolete," hailing Brexit as a "good thing," and criticizing the German chancellor's stance on refugees. Making policy via 140 characters is turning the country into a laughingstock.

Trump has also used Twitter to criticize great American companies such as Boeing, Ford, and General Motors. One tweet aimed at Toyota sliced \$2 billion from the company's market value. Even Sarah Palin called Trump's ballyhooed Carrier deal "crony capitalism."

Anyone who gets under Trump's thin skin is ripe for attack. Except for Russian President Vladimir Putin, a ruthless

leader who has presided over a Kremlin that murders critics and seeks chaos in the United States.

Even after American intelligence officials concluded Putin ordered a campaign designed to influence the U.S. presidential election, Trump called the Russian leader "smart."

The man of the people spent most of the transition in his gilded Fifth Avenue penthouse and Palm Beach resort. Trump did hold one press conference to address his many business conflicts. But it was more Kabuki theater than substance. Richard Painter, the former chief White House ethics lawyer for former President George W. Bush, said Trump's plan to have his two oldest sons run his business fell "short in every respect."

Conflicts, ethics, tax returns, emoluments clause, Constitution? Forget about it. Trump won. And to him that is all that matters.

No surprise Trump's initial moves have done little to win over critics. But even some supporters already have buyer's remorse.

Deborah Foster, 52, an attorney from Michigan, told the Wall Street Journal that she now had mixed feelings about voting for Trump. "I am hoping that Trump begins to speak and act like the intelligent businessman that I'm sure he is," she said. "I'm hoping he stops tweeting like a 13-year-old boy and starts acting like an adult."

Matt Triplett, 47, a Republican salesman from Ohio, said Trump was "doing a decent job, but I sure wish he'd get off Twitter. The guy is a loose cannon."

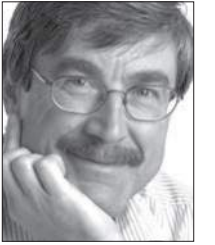
Daniel Gallegos, 53, a post office worker and libertarian from Colorado, said he objected to the way Trump was signaling out individual companies. "Donald Trump appears to be economically ignorant," he told the paper. "I really don't like the strong-arm tactics on business."

There is even a Facebook page and Twitter handle dedi-

By **PAUL DAVIES**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

*Paul Davies is the deputy editorial page editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may email him at [pdavies@phillynews.com](mailto:pdavies@phillynews.com).*



cated to Trump supporters who regret voting for him. Sherri Underwood, a social services worker living in the Midwest, said Trump lost her the minute he backtracked on his promise to throw Hillary Clinton in jail.

"My peers who voted for Trump still don't get it. They tell me to give the man a chance," she wrote in a first-person piece for Vox. "They tell me, what were they going to do, vote for Hillary, of all people? I wish I had. I wish I had done anything else but vote for him."

Sorry Sherri, Trump is not locking her up. He's not draining the swamp. And Mexico is not paying for any wall.

Some are already speculating about when Trump will be impeached. Irish bookmaker Paddy Power set the odds of impeachment at 4-1.

John Dean, the White House counsel for President Nixon, knows something about crooked presidents and impeachment. He told The Atlantic magazine that Nixon did not "come close to the level of corruption we already know about Trump."

But Dean does not think Trump will get impeached, "unless Trump is such a disaster that the public rises up and changes control of Congress in the mid-term elections."

Settle in folks, Trump's latest permanent floating craps game has begun.

## Trump ushers in dangerous state of disunion

President Donald Trump could have used his inaugural speech to soothe the bitter partisan divide that is undermining our country. He could have followed the lead of George W. Bush, who—like Trump—lost the popular vote in a contested election. In his first inaugural, Bush thanked Vice President Al Gore for "a contest conducted with spirit and ended with grace." A verbal nod to Hillary Clinton, and to the 66 million Americans who gave her their vote, would have offered hope to those who fear he will damage the country.

Instead, Trump delivered a dark version of his stump speech addressed to "all Americans" but clearly pitched to his base. He thanked President Barack Obama, then denigrated his presidency, portraying a grim America preyed on by immigrants and gangs. He cited "the ravages of other countries" that have "ripped the wealth" from our middle class. This angry populism can whip up his followers but won't deliver the goods—or heal partisan wounds.

Even more disturbing, his "America first" message to the world promised an aggressive brand of U.S. isolationism that will undermine our allies, and give adversaries a green light to expand their influence. This new Trump Doctrine could destabilize the entire world.

These two strands of Trumpism—domestic and foreign—are interconnected. On the home front, Trump used classical populist rhetoric, proclaiming that Jan. 20, 2017, was "the day the people became the rulers of this nation again." But who is "the people"? This kind of terminology is the stuff of authoritarian rulers.

As Jan-Werner Muller writes, in his new book, "What Is Populism?," the classic populist leader "must claim that a part of the people is the people" and that only he "authentically represents this true people."

Trump's admiration for autocrats such as Vladimir Putin and his hope to hold military parades on Pennsylvania Avenue give the impression of someone who sees himself as such

a leader. So does his classically populist denunciation of the Washington elite for despoiling "the people" (although, having stacked his cabinet with the wealthy and ethically challenged, Trump's blame game reeks of hypocrisy).

So the lost opportunity for outreach in his inaugural doesn't bode well for the future. A leader with the vision and political skill to heal the country's festering divisions could move the country forward, with bipartisan cooperation, say, on issues like rebuilding infrastructure. But a divisive populist will weaken the country, at home and abroad.

Indeed, foreign leaders were watching Trump's inaugural as closely as Americans for signals of what to expect from his presidency. Those signals were not reassuring.

Trump's mantra, "America first"—on trade, taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs—may sound sensible to many citizens. But his address made clear that the phrase has much more dangerous connotations for America's economy, and its place in the world.

One of the more astonishing sentences in the speech was this: "Protection will lead to great prosperity and strength." But putting up tariffs and starting trade wars, notably with China, as Trump has suggested, has huge downsides. It will cost millions of jobs and jack up low prices for goods, a fact that Trump never mentions. Nor did he ever refer, in his address, to the fact that whole categories of manufacturing jobs have been replaced by technology, not China.

It's fine to seek better trade deals, but dishonest promises to "bring back our jobs" will lead only to disappointment and create the need to blame someone for his own failures. A cycle of harsh rhetoric against China—let alone trade wars—could have harsh consequences. All the more so since Trump's positions on China, and that of some of his appointees, have raised talk of potential military conflict with Beijing.

So protection will not lead to great prosperity and strength, but more likely to unforeseen consequences. Populist promises are usually false.

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

*Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at [trubin@phillynews.com](mailto:trubin@phillynews.com).*



Trump's inaugural promises on foreign policy are nervous-making for other reasons. Those who complain that President Obama withdrew from global leadership ain't seen nothing yet, if Trump's mantra is, as he indicated, the heart of his foreign policy. Trump appears inclined to involve himself in global policy mainly when it comes to trade and America's economic interests.

Yet an American withdrawal from its historical role in world affairs will undermine the stability that this country has enjoyed for seven decades. Into that vacuum Moscow and Beijing are eager to move. Ditto for Iran.

Yet, as the inaugural hinted, Trump has scant use for America's traditional allies, with zero appreciation of the values they share with America and their crucial role in protecting U.S. security interests. He is ready to ally with Russia, in the (mistaken) belief that Moscow will help America eradicate Islamic terrorism. In his speech, Trump said he would eradicate radical Islamic terrorism "completely" from the Earth's face.






Since such terrorism revolves around ideology, not just territory, that is a promise Trump will be unable to keep.

What's so scary about Trump's speech is that it is so full of such promises. A populist has to blame someone when they fail, and the president's inaugural indicates a leader who will maintain a healthy list of enemies. Any hope that he might be a uniter rather than a divider looks dim after this speech.

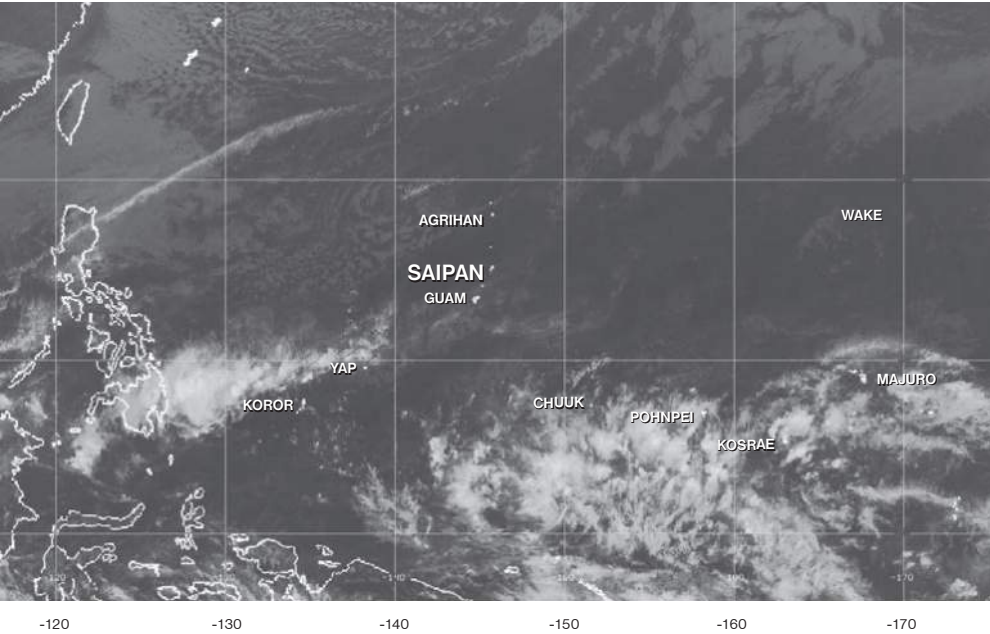


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 8:42 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers southeast of Guam. Elsewhere, only isolated showers are moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile shows northeast winds of 8 to 12 knots just off the surface which increase to between 20 and 30 knots through the lowest 13 thousand feet of the air. Shear line is gradually getting pushed back to the north. There could be a period of scattered showers as it moves through again, however it should be substantially less than last time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	83° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	70° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	39° / 23°
Hong Kong	Rain	68° / 57°
Honolulu	Showers	79° / 69°
London	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 34°
Los Angeles	Showers	56° / 41°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 55°
Miami	Sunny	79° / 56°
New York	Rain	43° / 37°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	45° / 28°
Paris	Snow Shower	37° / 25°
Pusan	Sunny	43° / 25°
Rome	Cloudy	57° / 39°
Salem	Sunny	65° / 42°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	25° / 5°
Seoul	Sunny	36° / 16°
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 30°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	51° / 39°



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- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
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TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:28 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.57
11:25 AM	LOW TIDE		1.17
4:36 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.78
-	-		-

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:22 AM	3:04 PM	-
Wednesday	4:12 AM	3:52 PM	-
Thursday	5:01 AM	4:42 PM	-
Friday	5:51AM	5:34 PM	-
Saturday	6:39AM	6:27 PM	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7	PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN	PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL	UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						



# Beautify my Marianas funds new school uniforms



MVA

Students of GTC Elementary School's 3rd grade class collect trash on Jan. 6, 2016, in San Roque, Saipan, under the Beautify My Marianas program of the Marianas Visitors Authority.



MVA

GTC Elementary School 3rd graders collect trash along the beach from their school to Paupau Beach Park under the Beautify My Marianas program of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Third grade students and volunteers of GTC Elementary School recently received new uniforms paid for with funds raised by their participation in the Beautify My Marianas beautification program of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

On Jan. 6, 2016, the students of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade section C picked up over 150 lbs of trash on the beach from behind the school north to PauPau Beach Park, as well as around the pavilions at the park.

"On this day three sets of



MVA

GTC Elementary School 3rd graders collect 180 lbs trash on Jan. 6, 2016, along the beach in San Roque, Saipan, under the Beautify My Marianas program of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

tourists—Russians, Americans, and Guamanians—and two sets of local picnickers were happy to see our kids taking care of the beach, and told them what a good job they were doing for the beach," said Claudia Palacios of GTC Elementary School. "After an hour of cleaning around the PauPau Beach Park, students and volunteers posed for a group photo, with our first load of trash, which was then piled into the truck for transport. The total trash collected on this beach cleanup was a whopping 180 lbs."

The class recently sent the MVA a photo of the new uniforms they purchased with the money earned.

"Thank you, MVA and Beautify My Marianas, for your sponsorship," said Palacios, in the group post-action report. "Your partnership is greatly appreciated."

Beautify My Marianas offers \$100 to student or other groups that pick up trash over 1-mile in an assigned area (payment may increase based on difficulty). For more information on Beautify My Marianas or an application, visit the MVA homepage at [www.my-marianas.com](http://www.my-marianas.com). Groups must apply to participate and document their cleanup with a written report, list of participants, and photos. (MVA)



MVA

Students of GTC Elementary School's 3rd grade section C wear new uniforms purchased with funds they earned by collecting trash under the Beautify My Marianas program of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

## H1-B Visa session: Helpful tips

Are you considering an H1-B Visa for your employee but don't know where to start? The process of applying can be time-consuming and expensive. If you would like some more information to help decide if this visa category is a good avenue for your worker, you should attend this Saipan

Chamber of Commerce session on Feb. 2 from 9am to 11am. Shirley Dotts, director of Human Resource Management at IT&E, has completed a number of these applications and has agreed to share some tips based on her professional experience regarding some items you should consider in

the process. No legal advice will be offered at this session. The Chamber strongly recommends the hiring of an attorney that specializes in immigration matters when you decide to process your first H1-B Visa application.

What this session will offer you is this: a.) General information about application and processes pertaining to H1-B

Visas, b.) What to consider prior to beginning the process, c.) How to determine the acceptable wage for your employee, d.) Types of RFE's and how to prepare responses, and e.) The importance of a well-drafted cover letter.

Since the CW-1 cap has already been reached, business owners continue to explore other options to retain their valued

employees. The process can be costly and appears overwhelming to many smaller businesses. This session will help you decide if this visa is a reasonable option for you to pursue.

If you are interested in this discussion, contact the Chamber office on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza Suite #315. Prepayment is required to reserve your spot.

The cost is \$45/member or \$50/non-member and includes light refreshments. Proceeds of this event will go to our Scholarship Program and other programs offered by the Chamber.

For more information call Mercylenn Kaneshi Palec at (670) 234-7150 or email [administrator@saipanchamber.com](mailto:administrator@saipanchamber.com). (Saipan Chamber of Commerce)



# MTEC Tourism Summit features destination speakers

The Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit for CNMI Public School System's My Wave Club students on Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan will feature a full lineup of on-and off-island speakers speaking on the theme "Discover My Marianas."

This year's keynote speaker will be TripAdvisor head of Destination Marketing APAC Sarah Mathews, responsible for leading TripAdvisor's efforts and initiatives in collaborating with and providing support to tourism boards across Asia Pacific as well as developing strategies that will drive awareness for each destination.

Mathews is also part of the

executive board of Pacific Asia Travel Association, currently holding the position of vice chairman.

Christopher A. Concepcion, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, heads the state tourism office of the Northern Mariana Islands, overseeing the marketing and promotions of the NMI through offices in Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Korea, China, Japan, Russia, Taiwan, Philippines, and Hong Kong. Concepcion is also a member of the MTEC board of directors.

Dino Manning is president and head coach of the Marianas Outrigger Club and has 20 years of competitive in-



Mathews



Manning



Perez



Castro



Concepcion

ternational outrigger racing experience with numerous podium finishes.

He recently started coaching and organizing paddle sports events and has taken part in numerous traditional navigational long distance sailing trips in the region.

Emma Perez is co-founder and president of the board of directors of 500 Sails, which

aims to reclaim the maritime tradition in the Marianas by getting 500 traditional Chamorro and Carolinian *proas* on the water in the Marianas again.

Northern Marianas historian John Castro was born on the island of Saipan and has over 20 years of experience working as an archeological technician, working in vari-

ous archeological projects and other developments in the Northern Marianas, training also in Micronesia and Australia. In addition to his expansive knowledge of archeology in the CNMI, Castro has worked with many government and private organizations in the research, development and archeological testing in the Northern Islands. Castro is also a fisherman, hunter and an advocate for the preservation and practice of Chamorro and Refaluwasch cultural traditions.

"The students from the MY WAVE Clubs (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) will gain more knowledge about our islands, as a tourist destination," said MTEC chairwoman Vicky Benavente. "The tourism summit's speakers will share their experiences and help our youth understand further, how they can help promote the uniqueness and beauty of the CNMI."

The summit is expected to gather nearly 300 MY WAVE Club members to learn more

about tourism, with special emphasis on discovering more about the special qualities that make their Marianas home attractive to visitors.

The summit is also sponsored by T Galleria, Pacific Trading Co., and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. The following offices and organizations will also provide hands-on demonstrations at breakout stations during the summit: Marianas Visitors Authority, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, Coastal Resources Management, National Park Service, Historic Preservation Office, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

MTEC was formed in 2002 to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the well-being of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve and promote the "Hafa Adai-Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community. (MTEC)

## H1-B Visa session: Helpful tips

Are you considering an H1-B Visa for your employee but don't know where to start? The process of applying can be time-consuming and expensive. If you would like some more information to help decide if this visa category is a good avenue for your worker, you should attend this Saipan Chamber of Commerce session on Feb. 2 from 9am to 11am. Shirley Dotts, director of Human Resource Management at IT&E, has completed a number of these applica-

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What this session will offer you is this: a.) General information about application and processes pertaining to H1-B Visas, b.) What to consider

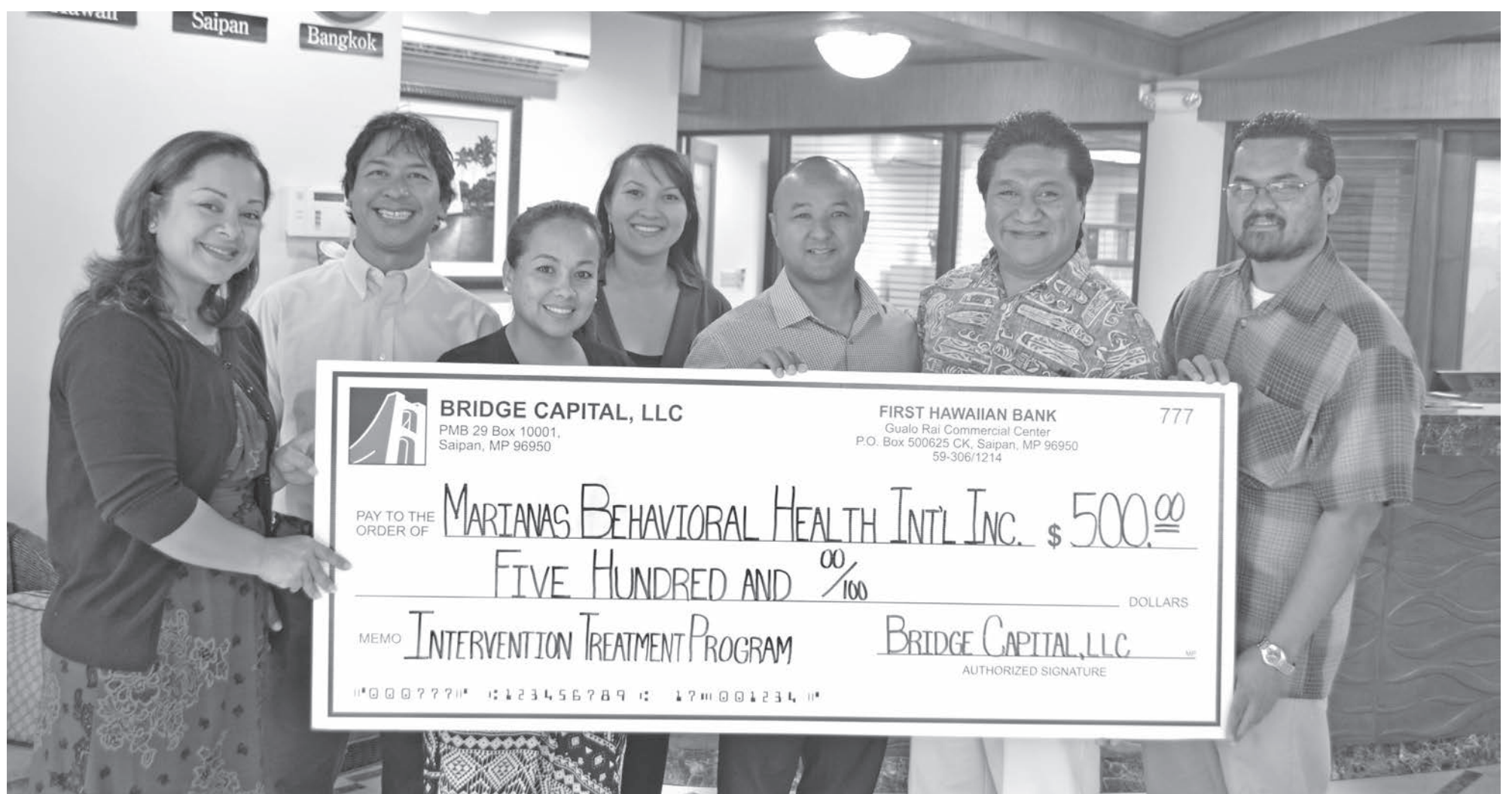
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### DONATION

Bridge Capital LLC donates \$500 to the Intervention Treatment Program of Marianas Behavioral Health Int'l Inc., a non-profit organization whose vision is combat the drug epidemic in the CNMI. From left, Bridge Capital HR manager Tania Fleming Mesa, consultant Joey Arriola, MBHI counselor Grace Vaigaie, MBHI office manager Dorene Kintol, Bridge Capital's Joe Guerrero, MBHI executive director Diego "DJ" Sablan, and MBHI recovery technician Vince Cabrera. MBHI provides drug and alcohol treatment intervention programs to individuals and their family members and help persons addicted improve their quality of life.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Business

## OPEC, allies says production cuts ahead of schedule

VIENNA (AP)—OPEC and key non-OPEC oil producers are near their target of taking 1.8 million barrels of crude a day off global markets less than two months after agreeing to do so in efforts to push up the price of crude, Russia's energy minister said Sunday. Alexander Novak's upbeat

comments to reporters came at the end of the first meeting of a joint OPEC-non-OPEC committee set up to monitor compliance to the Dec. 10 agreement.

Back then, Russia and 10 other nations outside OPEC decided to join with the 13 members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to reduce the daily amount of oil on sale by 1.8 million barrels in the first six months of this year.

Novak said firm figures wouldn't be available before the end of the month on what already had been achieved. But he estimated that "close to" 1.5 million barrels a day had been cut as of late January, adding that many countries are exceeding promised reductions.

Crude oil sold for over \$100

a barrel in the summer of 2014. Prices bottomed out, below \$30 a barrel in January 2016 but seldom rose much above \$50 for the rest of the year, prompting December's concerted action by the producers within and outside OPEC.

On Friday, benchmark U.S. crude was selling at \$52.42 a barrel in New York, while a barrel of Brent crude, used to price international oils, fetched \$55.49 in London.

Novak said that his country, which committed to the largest cut of 300,000 barrels a day, already had trimmed production by 100,000 barrels - double its projected target of 50,000 barrels by late January.

The announced reductions come after years of failed attempts, with individual OPEC

### Top 10 largest weekly declines in gas prices



Prices are per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline, Jan. 17, 2017

Source: AAA  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

members ignoring calls to hew to production targets in attempt to maximize sales and OPEC outsiders showing little interest in cooperating with the oil cartel.

But in the wake of the progress announced Sunday,

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Issam A. Almarzooq, who chaired the meeting, spoke confidently of the agreement's ultimate success.

"We will not accept anything less than 100 percent compliance," he said.

### Son with Asperger's will finish college but with little work experience

#### YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics."

**Q: My son "Brett," who will graduate from college next year, has a documented diagnosis of high-functioning autism, often referred to as Asperger's syndrome. Fortunately, a full scholarship has made it possible for Brett to focus on his studies without having to get a job. The stress of juggling school and work would have been a lot for him to handle.**

**Now, however, I'm beginning to worry about how Brett's lack of job experience may be viewed by potential employers. On his resume, the only entry under "work history" will be a temporary six-week position in the school's disability office. How can he explain this during future job interviews?**

**A:** Since the immediate objective is for Brett to receive his degree, your desire to avoid overloading him is certainly understandable. But with graduation approaching, both of you should begin thinking about the transition from school to employment. Otherwise, Brett may be completely unprepared for the change he is about to experience.

All graduates, with or without a disability, have a lot to learn about the world of work. However, one aspect can be particularly confusing for people with autism. Since they are frequently mystified by the nuances of social behavior, relationships with bosses and co-workers represent a minefield of confusing interactions and unclear expectations.

Pre-graduation job practice will not only shorten this interpersonal learning curve, it will also result in references who can verify Brett's value as an employee. So instead of trying to explain your son's slim resume, which will be a big red flag for many employers, help him find appropriate ways to fatten it.

The college career center or disability office may be able to identify low-stress student jobs, internships or volunteer assignments. Local and national autism organizations may also have helpful resources. Finally, encourage Brett to connect with graduates who have walked this path before him. Their insights will be invaluable.

**Q: After joining this department several months ago, I noticed that one of my co-workers is making life difficult for people on the next shift. "Rhonda" frequently fails to finish her work and never restocks supplies before going home. As a result, our second-shift employees get stuck with extra tasks.**

**When I pointed this out to Rhonda, she began pouting and didn't speak to me for a week. I talked with our team lead and his supervisor, but they defended Rhonda and seemed irritated with me for bringing up the problem. What should I do now?**

**A:** At this point, you should probably do nothing at all. Although your concern for your second-shift colleagues is admirable, you have virtually no power to change the situation. As a co-worker, you lack the authority to direct Rhonda's activities, so continuing to monitor her behavior will only create more friction.

By informing your bosses about this issue, you have really done all that you can. Despite their initial indifference, they may begin to see the problem now that you've made them aware of it. So, having helped as much as possible, you can stop worrying about Rhonda and just focus on your work.

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

## Samsung: Batteries only problem with fire-prone Note 7s



In this Sept. 2, 2016 file photo, a Samsung Electronics Galaxy Note 7 smartphone is displayed at the headquarters of South Korean mobile carrier KT in Seoul, South Korea.

AP

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung Electronics said Monday that tests of more than 200,000 Galaxy Note 7 smartphones found defects in two sets of batteries from two different manufacturers that made the devices prone to catch fire.

Samsung's mobile division president, Koh Dong-jin, ruled out any problems with other aspects of the Note 7, either in its hardware or its software. He said Samsung would use what it learned from its investigations to improve lithium ion battery safety for the industry, though analysts questioned if the company had really gotten to the heart of the problem.

Samsung discontinued the Note 7 just two months after it was launched on Aug. 2, in one of its worst product fiascos ever.

The company said 700 hundred researchers and engineers tested more than 200,000 devices and more than 30,000 batteries and replicated what happened with the Note 7 phones trying to pin down why some of the phones were overheating.

U.S. companies UL and Exponent also examined the batteries supplied by South Korea-based Samsung SDI and China-based Ampere Technology Ltd., or ATL. The German company TUV Rhein-

land analyzed the Note 7 supply chain as part of the investigation, Samsung said.

The Galaxy Note 7 featured one of the biggest battery capacities so far for smartphones at 3,500 mAh, or milliamphere hour, which gave it the highest energy density of all Samsung's devices. However, Koh said Samsung and the outside inspectors found no evidence that the high energy density alone had made the phones prone to overheating.

Rechargeable lithium batteries are more susceptible to overheating than other types of batteries if they are exposed to high temperatures, are damaged or have manufacturing

flaws. A highly technical explanation of Note 7 problems boiled down to the relatively large battery cells not fitting well into their pouches, with not enough insulating material inside.

In batteries by one manufacturer—likely Samsung SDI—used in the phones in the initial Note 7 recall, inspectors found damage to their upper corners. That, combined with thin separators and high energy density, caused the phones to overheat. The cell-pouch design of the battery did not include enough room to safely accommodate its electrodes—another flaw.



# Nation

## Trump, amid combative start, pledges to rise to moment

WASHINGTON (AP)—After a combative start to his presidency, Donald Trump delivered a more unifying message Sunday and sought to reassure Americans he was ready to begin governing a divided nation.

Trump began rolling out his plans for diplomatic outreach, speaking with Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and announcing plans for early meetings with Netanyahu and other world leaders. He thanked top law enforcement officers for their service and support. And he swore-in a group of aides, telling them he believed they were ready to rise to a daunting task.

“But with the faith in each other and the faith in God, we will get the job done,” Trump said in a ceremony in the White House East Room. “We will prove worthy of this moment in history. And I think it may very well be a great moment in history.”

Trump’s reassurance came

after a day marked by global protests against his presidency and his own complaints about media coverage of his inauguration, a combination of events that made for a contentious first full day in office on Saturday.

But even as the White House tried to forge forward,

the president’s aides continued to defend the president and his press secretary, both of whom tore into journalists for accurately reporting that his swearing-in ceremony drew a smaller crowd than President Barack Obama did eight years ago. On Sunday, a top adviser said the Trump

administration was supplying “alternative facts.”

“There’s no way to really quantify crowds. We all know that. You can laugh at me all you want,” Kellyanne Conway told NBC’s “Meet The Press.” She added: “I think it’s actually symbolic of the way we’re treated by the press.”



### 18 DEAD

Jenny Bullard carries a pair of boots from her home that was damaged by a tornado, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017, in Adel, Ga. Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal declared a state of emergency in several counties, including Cook, that have suffered deaths, injuries and severe damage from weekend storms. A severe storm system that spun off apparent tornadoes, pulverized mobile homes and scattered other destruction around the Southeast has claimed at least 18 lives on a two-day assault on the region, authorities said. The severe weather threat was still continuing Sunday night in some parts, extending into South Carolina and north Florida. At least 14 people were killed Sunday in Georgia as the intense, fast-moving storms tore across the state throughout the day, with at least one deadly tornado reported before dawn and violent storms still rumbling after nightfall. Four people were killed Saturday in Mississippi when the system began to ramp up.

AP



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 1 dead, multiple injured San Antonio shopping mall shooting

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A robbery inside a San Antonio shopping mall ended with shots fired on Sunday, leaving one person who tried to intervene dead, three others shot and another two people taken to hospital with non-shooting injuries, police and fire officials said. Police Chief William McManus said two suspects robbed a jewelry store at the Rolling Oaks Mall on

Sunday. “What we have here is a robbery gone really, really bad,” McManus said. After the suspects fled the store, a man, described by McManus as a “good Samaritan” tried to stop the two men. One of the robbers then fatally shot the man, McManus said. A second individual, who was carrying a licensed concealed weapon, then shot and wounded the robber who had killed the person who intervened, McManus said. Police said the second robber, who initially fled the scene, was arrested Sunday

night. Additional details about the arrest or suspect were not immediately available.

#### Southern California pounded by intense storm and flooding

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The third and most powerful in a series of storms pounded Southern California on Sunday, dropping nearly 4 inches of rain south of Los Angeles, flooding freeways and raising concerns about damaging mudslides. Commuters could expect a messy drive

to work Monday in several areas, with rainfall expected to ease slightly but not taper off until Tuesday. Flash flood watches and warnings were in effect for swaths of greater Los Angeles and across Southern California where multiple roads were closed Sunday or blocked by fallen trees. The National Weather Service cautioned that the system was expected to gain strength into Sunday evening and could end up being the strongest storm in at least seven years. California has been swamped during

a wet winter that has brought plenty of rain and snow after years of drought. By early evening, the rainfall had set new records. Long Beach Airport received 3.87 inches of rain by 5 p.m., breaking the all-time daily record for rainfall.

#### Ground stop lifted, United Airlines flights set to resume

NEW YORK (AP)—United Airlines says domestic flights are on the move again after being grounded Sunday because of a computer

problem. Company spokeswoman Maddie King says the “IT issue” that initially caused the ground stop has been resolved and flights are resuming, but customers may experience additional delays. She didn’t give any more details. It was not immediately clear how many flights were affected. The ground stop lasted about 2 ½ hours. Chicago-based United Airlines and United Express operate more than 4,500 flights a day to 339 airports across five continents.



## Asia

## For India's typewriters, the ribbon may have finally run out



AP  
In this Jan. 16, 2017 photo, an Indian laborer repairs an old typewriter in New Delhi, India.

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—The end is coming, though admittedly it may not look that way at 10 a.m. on a Tuesday morning, when dozens of young Indians have arrived for morning classes at Anand Type, Shorthand and Key Punch College, and every battered Remington is clattering away.

Looking around the cramped classrooms, you might think that the typewriter still has a future in India. But in one of the last places in the world where it remains a part of everyday life, twilight is at hand.

Even Sunil Chawla will tell you that, and he's kept Chawla Typewriters going long after the profits disappeared.

"We thought this business would go on forever and ever," said Chawla, a courtly man whose father founded the family company nearly 60 years ago, but whose own sons chose to avoid the typewriter business. "I'll keep it alive as long as possible. But after me, I don't know what's going to happen. There's no future in this business."

For now, only one thing keeps him in the business: "I'm a typewriter man," he said. "I still have a soft spot for them, and I don't want to let it go."

Plus, people do continue to send him typewriters to fix, though most of his work these days is selling supplies for copiers and laminating machines.

India still has a few thousand remaining professional typists. There are a handful of typewriter repairmen

and stores selling spare parts. There are typing schools that, at least occasionally, are jammed with students. There are long-outdated government regulations that, for now, help the typewriter cling to life.

But for how long?

"I come here only to pass the time," Satinder Kumar said on a recent afternoon at Tis Hazari, New Delhi's main court complex, where 50 or so typists earn a few dollars a day preparing rent agreements, sales contracts and other legal documents.

Kumar worked for 41 years at Tis Hazari, raising two chil-

dren on his pay.

"It was such a good job. We were working from morning until night," he said, slouching in front of his manual Remington, a purple beret pulled down over his head to keep out the winter chill. "S.K. Kumar (typist)" it says on a hand-painted sign hanging above what counts as his office, a rusted metal desk in the complex's yard.

Now, there are just 10-15 pages a day for the hundreds of lawyers scurrying through the maze of buildings and corridors. At 15 rupees a page, or about 20 cents, that barely

pays for transportation to work, typewriter ribbons and an occasional tuneup from the complex's last typewriter repairman. For the typists, things only get busy when all the computers are in use, or there's an electricity outage.

More than 20 years ago, Kumar realized that everything in the typing world would soon change dramatically. "The first time I saw the computer, I knew the typewriter would be finished one day," he said. On a computer, letters and legal forms can be re-used endlessly, requiring only changes in dates and names. Often, typists aren't

needed at all. He laughs, but the bitterness is barely hidden: "Now the time has come!"

In hindsight, he says he probably should have learned how to use a computer. But the typing business remained pretty good until about 10 years ago, as computers grew cheaper and more widely available, so he never bothered.

Now, at age 65, he thinks it's probably too late. "I think it's time I left all this behind," he said.

Then he looked directly at me and squinted suspiciously: "Why are you asking all these questions about typewriters?"

It's a valid question. Technology changes constantly. Jobs die out regularly. Did journalists write about the decline of the video store rental clerk? Did we mourn the end of the LED watch?

But there's something different about the typewriter, which for more than a century was so important to how the world communicated. It was how presidents issued orders, how Hemingway wrote books, how reporters filed stories. Everything from painfully dull memos to deeply erotic love letters were crafted on typewriters.

In India, the typewriter was never just a piece of office equipment. It was a sign of education, of professional achievement, of women's growing independence as they slowly entered the workforce. It's been a Bollywood plot line and a symbol of nationalism ("The all-Indian Typewriter embodies the latest advances," read a 1950s advertisement for Bombay-based Godrej typewriters)

Even today it can be a path to success. In a country where government jobs have long been tickets to the middle class, thousands of Indians will sometimes apply for a single clerical position. And while most government offices have shifted to computers for typing tests, some still require a typewriter.

For Suresh Bansal, who for 40 years has managed and taught at Anand Type, Shorthand and Key Punch College, that's welcome news.



## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Roof collapses in eastern Afghanistan refugee camp, kills 6

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—An Afghan official says the roof of a shoddily constructed house in a refugee camp in eastern Afghanistan collapsed as a family was sleeping inside, killing 6 family members, including two women and two children. Attaullah Khogiyani, spokesman for the Nangarhar provincial governor, says four other members of the family were injured in the incident, which took place early on Monday morning. The family was among tens of thousands of refugees who have returned from neighboring Pakistan in recent years. There are an estimated 1.5 million Afghan refugees still living in Pakistan. Afghanistan is

struggling to cope with the influx, which has led to the establishment of temporary and often hastily built camps to house the returnees such as the one in eastern Nangarhar province.

### Panel to issue report supporting Emperor abdication

**TOKYO (AP)**—A Japanese government panel studying a possible abdication of Emperor Akihito is set to release Monday an interim report that supports enacting special legislation that is applicable only to him. The six-member panel is looking at how to accommodate Akihito's apparent abdication wish expressed last August when he cited concerns that his age and health conditions may start limiting his ability to ful-

fill his duties. Akihito turned 83 last month. The report to be released Monday evening will pave the way for a parliamentary discussion. Media reports were published detailing its proposals. The panel, after interviewing constitutional and monarchy experts, agreed that allowing an abdication was the most appropriate way to meet Akihito's request, but that setting a permanent system covering all future emperors would be difficult. If legislation is enacted, Emperor Akihito would be the first to abdicate in 200 years since Emperor Kokaku.

### MH370 search crews return to port after fruitless hunt ends

**SYDNEY (AP)**—The ship involved in the recently halt-

ed hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 returned to port in western Australia on Monday, where officials from the countries that funded the fruitless search gathered to thank them and to defend their decision to end the hunt despite recommendations from investigators that it continue. Transport officials from Australia, Malaysia and China met in the Western Australia state capital of Perth to greet the crew of Fugro Equator, who were ordered to return last week after the countries officially suspended the nearly three-year search for the plane in the Indian Ocean. The \$160 million deep-sea sonar search off Australia's west coast failed to find any trace of the plane, which vanished March 8, 2014, on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.



# World

## Gambia's ex-leader made off with millions, luxury cars

**BANJUL, Gambia (AP)**—Exiled Gambian ruler Yahya Jammeh stole millions of dollars in his final weeks in power, plundering the state coffers and shipping out luxury vehicles by cargo plane, a special adviser for the new president said Sunday.

Meanwhile, a regional military force rolled in, greeted by cheers, to secure this tiny West African nation so that democratically elected President Adama Barrow could return home. He remained in neighboring Senegal, where he took the oath of office Thursday because of concerns for his safety.

At a press conference in the Senegalese capital, Barrow's special adviser Mai Ahmad Fatty told journalists that the president "will return home as soon as possible."

Underscoring the challenges facing the new administration, Fatty confirmed that Jammeh made off with more than \$11.4 million during a two-week period alone. That is only what they have discovered so far since Jammeh and his family took an offer of exile after more than 22 years in power and departed late Saturday.

"The Gambia is in financial distress. The coffers are virtually empty. That is a state of fact," Fatty said. "It has been confirmed by technicians in the ministry of finance and the Central Bank of the Gambia."

Fatty also confirmed that a Chadian cargo plane had transported luxury goods out of the country on Jammeh's



AP  
ECOWAS Senegalese troops hold their position in Barra, across from the Gambian capital Banjul Sunday Jan. 22, 2017, one day after Gambia's defeated leader Yahya Jammeh left the country.

behalf in his final hours in power, including an unknown number of vehicles.

Fatty said officials at the Gambia airport have been ordered not to allow any of Jammeh's belongings to leave. Separately, it appeared that some of his goods remained in Guinea, where Jammeh and his closest allies stopped on their flight into exile.

Fatty said officials "regret the situation," but it appeared that the major damage had

been done, leaving the new government with little recourse to recoup the funds.

The unpredictable Jammeh, known for startling declarations like his claim that bananas and herbal rubs could cure AIDS, went into exile under mounting international pressure, with a wave to supporters as soldiers wept. He is now in Equatorial Guinea, home to Africa's longest-serving ruler and not a state party to the International

Criminal Court.

Jammeh's dramatic about-face on his December election loss to Barrow, at first conceding and then challenging the vote, appeared to be the final straw for the international community, which had been alarmed by his moves in recent years to declare an Islamic republic and leave the Commonwealth and the ICC.

Barrow's adviser disavowed a joint declaration issued after Jammeh's departure

by the United Nations, African Union and West African regional bloc ECOWAS that bestowed a number of protections upon Jammeh, his family

and his associates—including the assurance that their lawful assets would not be seized.

"As far as we're concerned, it doesn't exist," Fatty said.

## Trump staff, properties face terror risk with presidency

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—Businesses around the world bearing U.S. President Donald Trump's name face an increased risk now that he is in the White House, security experts warn, especially as several are in areas previously targeted by violence.

As Trump remains a brand overseas, criminal gangs or militants could target buildings bearing his name in gold, abduct workers associated with his enterprises for ransom or worse, they say.

"They may kidnap a Trump worker and not even want to negotiate," aiming for publicity instead, said Colin P. Clarke, a political scientist with the RAND Corporation who studies terrorism and international criminal networks.

Predicting an attack keeps police, intelligence agencies and security experts awake at night around the world—and, by its very nature, it remains speculative.

U.S. brands have been targeted in overseas violence before, but they never belonged to a president. That's the difference. Trump becoming America's 45th president pres-

ents a unique challenge given the range of his international business interests.

Asked about security issues, the Trump Organization said in a statement it has "extensive protocols in place at our Trump-owned and -managed properties" in the United States and abroad.

"Our team continues to work very closely with local law enforcement," the statement said. "We are also working in tandem with the local developers at Trump-branded properties worldwide to ensure that all residents, guests and associates remain safe and secure." The organization did not elaborate.

While Trump has said he will put his business assets in a trust and hand over management control of his company to his two adult sons and a longtime Trump Organization executive, it's still his name on the projects.

That hasn't worried Kim Ok Kyu, who lives in a Trump-branded apartment tower in Seoul, South Korea. She said security at her building is quite good, with many guards and strict restrictions on outsiders entering the building

## Israeli leader accepts invitation from Trump to visit US

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Israel's prime minister on Sunday accepted an invitation to visit the White House next month in hopes of forging a "common vision" for the region with President Donald Trump that could include expanded settlement construction on occupied territories and a tougher policy toward Iran.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced his plans to head to Washington in early February hours after delaying a vote on an explosive proposal to annex one of the West Bank's largest settlements, apparently to coordinate his policy toward the Palestinians with the new administration.

The move put on hold legislation that threatens to unleash fresh violence and damage already faded hopes for Palestinian independence. It also may have marked Trump's first presidential foray into Middle

East diplomacy.

After eight years of frosty relations with President Barack Obama, Netanyahu has welcomed Trump's election as an opportunity to strengthen ties between the two allies. Israeli media reported that Netanyahu was gearing up plans to expand settlement construction in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem—a policy that had been condemned by Obama.

Late Sunday, the two men held what Netanyahu's office described as a "very warm conversation" by phone. It said they discussed the international nuclear deal with Iran, which both men have harshly criticized, and the Palestinian issue.

"The prime minister expressed his desire to work closely with President Trump to forge a common vision to advance peace and security in the region, with no daylight between the United States and Israel," the statement said. It

said a date for Netanyahu's visit would be finalized in the coming days.

The White House said Trump told Netanyahu that peace with the Palestinians "can only be negotiated directly between the two parties" and that the U.S. will work closely with Israel on that goal.

Trump also affirmed his "unprecedented commitment to Israel's security" and his administration's focus on countering terrorism, the White House added.

With Trump signaling a more tolerant approach toward the much-maligned settlement movement, Israel's nationalist right now believes it has an ally in the White House, and Israeli hard-line leaders make no secret they will push for aggressive action in the occupied West Bank.

Education Minister Naftali Bennett, leader of the pro-settlement Jewish Home Party,

has been pushing Netanyahu to abandon the internationally backed idea of a Palestinian state and to annex the Maaleh Adumim settlement near Jerusalem.

But after convening his Security Cabinet on Sunday, Netanyahu said his Cabinet ministers, including Bennett, had decided "unanimously" to delay action on the annexation plan until he goes to Washington to meet with Trump.

In order to placate Bennett, Israeli media reports said Netanyahu had promised the ministers to clear the way for expanded settlement construction in east Jerusalem and in major West Bank settlement "blocs" that Israel hopes to keep under a future peace deal. He was quoted as saying his "vision" is to place all settlements under Israeli sovereignty.

In Washington, Trump described their phone call as "very nice."



# Overdrive

## Auto show concepts: Would you build them or forget them?

**DETROIT (AP)**—Car companies don't just show current models at auto shows. They also unveil prototypes that could be built in the future. These so-called concept cars help them gauge the public's reaction to new designs or technology. They can also amp up excitement about a company's future.

These are some of the concept vehicles on display at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, which opens to the public Saturday. As show visitors check out these concepts they should ask themselves: Would I build it or bag it?

### VOLKSWAGEN I.D. BUZZ

The latest incarnation of VW's groovy, 1960s minibus is the I.D. Buzz. VW says I.D. stands for "identity" and "iconic design." The "buzz" refers to the whirring sound of the electric drive system, which can take the minivan

up to 270 miles on a charge. The I.D. Buzz seats up to eight and lets the driver's seat face the rear when the minivan is in self-driving mode. VW minibuses haven't been sold in the U.S. since the 1970s, but the company has released several concepts over the years that take their styling cues from the beloved minibus. This one would fit neatly with VW's goal of selling 1 million electric vehicles annually by 2025.

### INFINITI QX50

Infiniti hints at the future design of its midsize SUV with the QX50. Its flowing lines resemble other, newer members of the Infiniti family, like the smaller QX30. The concept has an advanced semi-autonomous driving system that can take over for the driver in some situations, like stop-and-go traffic. It also has a significantly more efficient engine. Infiniti is expected to build a model very close to the



In this Monday, Jan. 9, 2017, file photo, the Cadillac Escala is displayed at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Cadillac says the gleaming Escala gives an idea of a future flagship sedan from Cadillac. On the outside, it has smooth surfaces and a long hood, while inside are thin, curved display screens that respond to touch, voice and gesture commands and fabric seats inspired by high-fashion suits. The Escala is a rear-wheel-drive sedan with a 4.2-liter twin-turbocharged V8 that can cut back to four cylinders to save fuel.

concept version that will go on sale next year.

### LINCOLN NAVIGATOR

Automakers often load up concept vehicles with features that might not make it into production. Take the

concept Lincoln Navigator. Giant gull-wing doors in the rear and three steps that unfold to help occupants climb in aren't likely to be seen in dealer showroom. Still, the sleek, wagon-like shape gives a clue that the new Navigator will be a sharp departure from the current, truck-like one, which debuted in 1997. The 2018 Navigator is expected to go on sale later this year.

### CADILLAC ESCALA

Cadillac says the gleaming Escala gives an idea of a future flagship sedan. It has smooth surfaces and a long hood. Inside are thin, curved display screens that respond to touch, voice and gesture commands and fabric seats inspired by high-fashion suits. The Escala is a rear-wheel-drive sedan with a 4.2-liter twin-turbocharged

V8 that can cut back to four cylinders to save fuel. While the Escala is a beauty, its sales prospects are dim in a market that is crazy for SUVs. Cadillac sedan sales were down 2 percent last year; by contrast, sales of the Escalade SUV jumped 11 percent.

### GAC ENSPIRIT

What could make an SUV stand out in a market overrun with them? How about a bonsai tree? Chinese automaker GAC—that stands for Guangzhou Automotive Group—is displaying the EnSpirit concept on the auto show floor, a small four-door SUV with a retractable cloth roof. Inside are light wood accents and a long center stack that features a little bonsai tree in the rear. The EnSpirit is a plug-in hybrid, and GAC says it can go around 60 miles in electric mode before the small gas engine kicks in. Although GAC says it hopes to sell vehicles in the U.S. by 2019, it won't say whether the EnSpirit—or anything like it—could eventually be sold here.

## UNDER THE HOOD

## The basics on replacing your brakes

By **BRAD BERGHOLDT**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Q: I recently took my car in for an oil change and was told I'll soon need to replace the brakes. I purchased this car new—it's my first—and I'm not sure what to expect. What are the things I should look out for to ensure I get the best job possible and am not taken advantage of?—Marissa I.**

**A:** No problem, Marissa!

Front brakes typically wear out at 30,000-60,000 miles, depending on driving habits, driving conditions, vehicle design and brake pad type. Rear brakes often go as far as 60,000-100,000 miles because they don't work quite as hard. Brakes on hybrid and electric vehicles typically last much longer as regeneration does much of the work in slowing the car down.

In most cases, you'll know the front and possibly rear disc brakes have worn thin because you'll hear sensor squealing. This annoying, nail-on-a-blackboard sound may be either repetitive or continuous and will be heard whether the brakes are applied or not. The sound will likely change slightly as the brakes are applied.

Some vehicles feature warning lights, which will illuminate to indicate brake pad thickness has worn thin.

If the front or rear brake pads or rear shoes wear down to the metal backing—ouch!—you might hear a grating/grinding

noise when braking.

During a vehicle's first brake job, it's likely that all that will be needed is replacement of the disc brake pads. Unless brake pulsation, excessive rust or heat issues are evident, the brake rotors (the discs that are visible through the wheel spokes) should not need machining, a process used to clean up their friction surfaces. This may not be the case upon subsequent brake jobs as the rotors wear or become damaged. Brake calipers, which are the clamping devices containing a hydraulic piston, typically last 10 years or even the life of the car. Any place that encourages these to be renewed sooner, unless leaking or binding is evident, should receive an icy stare!

It would be nice if whoever performs the job offers you a choice of brake pad type, as pads may be optimized for high performance, quiet operation, long life or minimal visible dusting. Typically, brakes that stop the best wear out more quickly and make a lot of dust. Long-lasting brakes are often noisy and don't stop as well.

And don't shop for price! I'd consider either the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) pads, or perhaps a ceramic formulation. These cost a bit more but offer a great blend of performance with less visible dusting.

As a vehicle ages, it's likely the brake rotors (and rear

drums on some vehicles) will wear or distort, requiring attention. Material can be machined away to clean up and true the friction surface, but only to a point. There's a legal limit for how deeply a rotor or drum can be machined before the part becomes too thin to properly dissipate heat. That's what brakes do: convert kinetic (moving) energy of the vehicle into heat.


Too much brake use on steep grades can damage brake parts and lead to possible loss of brake function due to pad material gassing or brake fluid boil. Selecting a lower transmission gear provides engine holdback, taking load off the brakes on long downgrades. Renewal of brake fluid every five years is likely not listed in a vehicle's maintenance schedule but is a good idea as doing so will minimize corrosion of expensive anti-lock braking system components and reduce the chance of fluid boiling.

Just about all auto service facilities perform brake service. If additional parts or services are recommended beyond simple pad replacement, ask to be shown why, or consider getting a second opinion.

*Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.*

*In Loving Memory of*

## Luis Toves Hocog



We, the family of Luis, invite all of our family members and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of a beloved husband, father, grandfather & great grandfather.

Daily mass will be offered at Kristo Rai Church, 6:00am beginning January 25, 2017 to February 2, 2017. Nightly rosary will be held at 7:00pm at the residence of Lourdes S. Hocog in Sadog Tasi.

On the last night, February 2nd, an appreciation dinner will be served immediately after the rosary.

Your thoughts, presence and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

*Si Yu'us Mo'ase*

From Lourdes S. Hocog, Children and Family



## Life & Style

# No more nerds, sex bombs: Female animators draw away clichés

**SANTA CLARITA, Calif.** (AP)—The California Institute of the Arts was created partly by Walt Disney's desire to bring more top-flight animators into the profession. And it has during its 47 years, though for a long time almost all were men.

Now, nearly three-quarters of CalArts' more than 250 ani-

mation students are women, and there's a new goal: ensure that when they land jobs, they get to draw female characters reflective of the real world and not just the nerds, sex bombs, tomboys or ugly villains who proliferate now.

"Male villains, for example, can be any shape or size. But female villains are usually

in their menopausal or post-menopausal phases. They're older, they're single, they're angry," said Erica Larsen-Dockray, who teaches a class on "The Animated Woman" for CalArts' experimental animation program.

"Then you have the innocent princess," she added with a chuckle, "whose waist

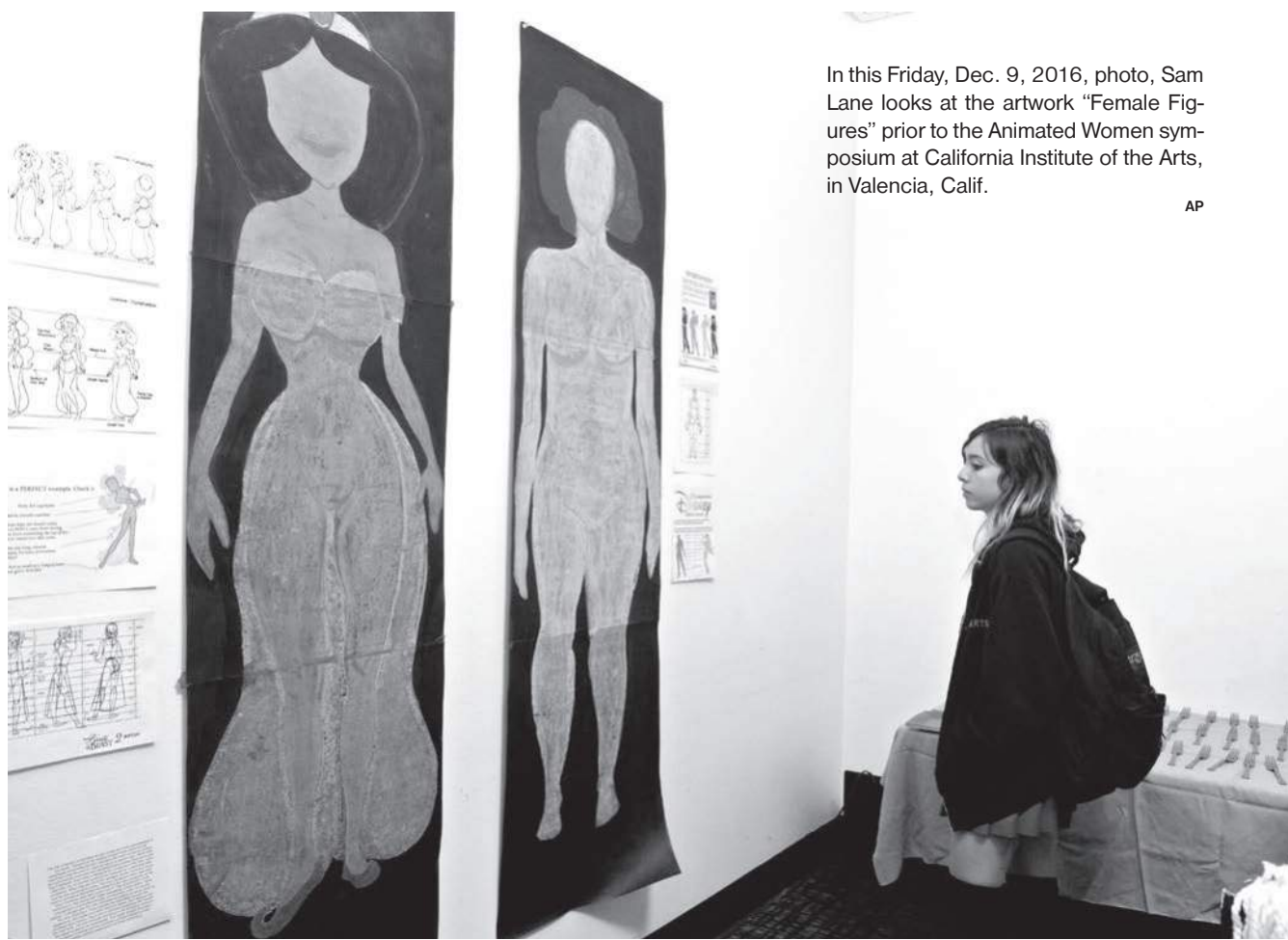
is so small that if she was actually alive, she wouldn't be able to walk."

To call attention to that cartoonish reality, CalArts has played host the past two years to "The Animated Woman Symposium on Gender Bias." This year it focused on the roles of "Sidekicks, Nerd Girls, Tomboys and More."

During a recent raucous two-hour symposium, nearly a dozen student researchers who spent months watching cartoons and reading comic books questioned why almost all female sidekicks look like nerds. Also why female heroes like Kim Possible are over-the-top beautiful. And why there are so few gay, lesbian

and transgender characters.

"What are nerd-girl stereotypes? They have glasses, they're shy, they're awkward, they have some freckles going on," said film-video student and artist Madison Stubbs as she flashed drawings of several, including two of the most popular: Velma from "Scooby-Doo" and Meg Griffin of "Family Guy."



In this Friday, Dec. 9, 2016, photo, Sam Lane looks at the artwork "Female Figures" prior to the Animated Women symposium at California Institute of the Arts, in Valencia, Calif.

AP

## Trump's 'war with the media' raises questions of trust

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Donald Trump's "running war" on the media is continuing into his presidency, with statements over the weekend calling into question the extent to which information from the White House can be trusted.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer on Monday will hold his first daily press briefing at which he could face questions about a statement Saturday night that included demonstrably false assertions about the crowd size at Friday's inauguration and a promise by the new administration that "we're going to hold the press accountable."

Some Trump supporters will no doubt cheer the continued antagonism toward the media that was central to the Republican's campaign for president. Now the stakes are higher.

Press secretaries have been lied to by their bosses, or misled reporters through the omission of information, but veteran journalist Dan Rather said

Sunday it was the first time he could recall false material being delivered in this way.

"I hope that people will stop, pull back for what we in television call a wide shot and see what is happening," Rather said. "This is a deliberate propaganda campaign."

Longtime Republican operative Spicer, who most recently was the spokesman for the Republican National Committee and also worked for President George W. Bush, is known for fighting tenaciously for his employers.

His briefing on Saturday followed a Trump appearance at the CIA where the president criticized the media for its reporting his criticisms of the intelligence community and took exception to stories saying the crowd for his inauguration was smaller than those for predecessor Barack Obama. Trump declared that journalists are "the most dishonest human beings on Earth," saying "I have a running war with the media."

## Dee Rees' American odyssey 'Mudbound' captivates Sundance

**PARK CITY, Utah** (AP)—Director Dee Rees wanted to get to the big questions in her enthralling period epic "Mudbound." Specifically: What is it to be a citizen and what is it to fight for a country that doesn't fight for you? The film, which premiered Saturday night at the Sundance Film Festival, had audiences raving and some already speculating about Oscar chances.

Based on Hillary Jordan's 2008 novel "Mudbound," chronicles the lives of two families in the WWII-era South - one white and one black, and the complicated intersectionality of their paths. There's the McAllans, Laura (Carey Mulligan), her husband Henry (Jason Clarke), his brother Jamie (Garrett Hedlund) and their father Pappy (Jonathan Banks), and the Jacksons, Florence (Mary J. Blige), her husband

Hap (Rob Morgan) and their son Ronsel (Jason Mitchell).

They're tied together by a rental agreement - the Jacksons rent their land and home from the McAllans - and the deeply complicated racial relationships in the segregated South in which Henry can demand help from Hap at any moment and Pappy can insist that Ronsel exit the local store from the back entrance.

It's a sprawling and deeply American story about women, men, race and personhood that defies a simple summary.

"It's not didactic, it's not preachy," Rees said. "The thing I love about it is it's multiple points of view."

Both Jamie and Ronsel go off to fight in WWII, where Jamie's once shiny life becomes clouded by the horrors of war and alcohol.

## Shyamalan's 'Split' rules inauguration weekend with \$40.2M

**NEW YORK** (AP)—M. Night Shyamalan's psychological thriller "Split" blew away box-office expectations, earning \$40.2 million in ticket sales over inauguration weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Though many were focused on Friday's presidential inauguration and Saturday's nationwide women's marches, "Split" doubled forecasts to easily lead all films. The Universal Pictures release again brings together Shyamalan, director of "The Sixth Sense," with the low-budget horror experts of Blumhouse Productions.

The PG-13-rated "Split," starring James McAvoy as a man with split personalities, cost less than \$10 million to make.

"This is an unusual weekend in our society and a lot of things have been going on that would otherwise divert our attention," said Nick Carpou, head of distribution for Universal. "A film like this based on the elements that it brings and the audience that it attracts, I think can take

1. **"Split,"** \$40.2 million (\$5.8 million international).
2. **"xXx: The Return of Xander Cage,"** \$20 million (\$50.5 million international).
3. **"Hidden Figures,"** \$16.3 million (\$731,000 international).
4. **"Sing,"** \$9 million (\$8.3 million international).
5. **"La La Land,"** \$8.4 million (\$16.6 million international).
6. **"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story,"** \$7 million (\$9 million international).
7. **"Monster Trucks,"** \$7 million (\$2.4 million international).
8. **"Patriots Day,"** \$6 million.
9. **"The Founder,"** \$3.8 million.
10. **"Sleepless,"** \$3.7 million.

Blumhouse. They previously combined for 2015's breakout horror hit "The Visit."

The Vin Diesel action sequel "xXx: The Return of Xander Cage" opened in second place, with \$20 million. It's the third film in the trilogy and first installment in 12 years. Though a modest start for a film designed to recharge a dormant franchise, it is faring better overseas. It took in \$50.5 million internationally over the weekend.

Last weekend's top film, the stirring mathematician drama "Hidden Figures," held on well, sliding to third place with an estimated \$16.3 million.

Despite the weekend's political events, the North American box office was up 29.2 percent from the same weekend last year, according to comScore.

"You would think that those events would suck the air out of the room, but that didn't happen," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "The movie theater experience with the right content is irresistible no matter

what is going on in the outside world, and in fact may even benefit from so much going on in the outside world. To have your wits scared out you is one of the greatest escapes."

A pair of other new releases had more difficulty rounding up audiences. The Weinstein Co.'s "The Founder," a biopic about Ray Kroc of McDonald's starring Michael Keaton, launched in 1,100 theaters but gathered only \$3.8 million. It will be hoping for an Oscar nomination on Tuesday to help it stand out of the adult-skewing releases.

Oscar favorite "La La Land" is still going strong with \$8.4 million in its seventh week.

Bombing altogether was the Christian drama "The Resurrection of Gavin Stone," which took in \$1.4 million from 1,000 theaters.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final four-day domestic figures will be released Monday.



# Neon piece of rock 'n' roll history going up for auction

**BIDDEFORD, Maine** (AP)—A bright neon piece of rock 'n' roll history is going up for auction—a marquee from the legendary Los Angeles club, Whisky a Go Go.

The 13-foot sign, with letters alight in bright pink, adorned the West Hollywood club in the '80s and '90s, during the heyday of punk, new wave and grunge.

Saco River Auction Co. is putting it up for bid Wednesday.

"Being a guy who likes rock and heavy metal and music in general, this is like the holy grail of something that's collectible," said auctioneer Troy Thibodeau.

Over the years, the Sunset Strip club featured acts including Led Zeppelin, the Doors, Janis Joplin, Van Halen, Motley Crue, Frank Zappa and the Ramones.

The weathered marquee says simply, "The Whisky." It was



replaced in 2004 with a new sign—"Whisky a Go Go"—that restored the full name used when the club opened in 1964.

The marquee sold for nearly \$35,000 in 2012 and was supposed to be used in a "man cave" in a home in Maine,

Thibodeau said. Instead, it ended up collecting dust in a storage unit and wound up in Thibodeau's possession because the owner was delinquent on payments.

Thibodeau said he thinks the sign could fetch somewhere

between \$25,000 and \$60,000.

The Whisky a Go Go got its start with dancing, as the name suggests, but live music quickly became a staple. The Doors were a house band in the late 1960s, and other acts including the Byrds and Buffalo

Springfield helped to cement the club's reputation, said Todd Mesek, from Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

"It got this reputation as this great place for the hottest new bands, with a lot of street cred, and for being the place to be for

**AP**  
In this Friday, Jan. 20, 2017 photo, a marquee from the legendary Los Angeles rock 'n' roll club, Whisky a Go Go, glows at the Saco River Auction Co., in Biddeford, Maine.

new music," he said.

The club with a capacity for 500 people faded a bit in the 1970s as big rock 'n' roll bands played larger venues, like arenas and stadiums, before getting a second wind during the punk era in the late 1970s and early 1980s with the Ramones, the Runaways and Blondie, Mesek said.

Then came the big metal bands of the 1980s, including Van Halen, Motley Crue and Guns N' Roses. In the 1990s, grunge bands like Soundgarden and the Melvins played there.

The venue was recognized by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2006.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Madonna defends her anti-Trump speech at women's march

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Madonna is defending her fiery, expletive-laden speech at the women's march, saying her words were "taken wildly out of context." The singer said at the Washington, D.C., march Saturday that she had at times been angry after the election and had thought "an awful lot about blowing up the White House." In a statement Sunday on Instagram, Madonna said she was trying to express there are two ways to respond to Donald Trump's election: with hope or with outrage. She said she hopes to effect change "with love." Madonna wrote that she doesn't promote violence and people should lis-

ten to her speech "in its entirety rather than one phrase taken wildly out of context." Cable news networks broadcasting her speech cut away after Madonna used several expletives. MSNBC later apologized.

### Matt Damon says he'll pitch clean water to Trump

**PARK CITY, Utah** (AP)—Matt Damon took the cause of clean water to the Sundance Film Festival, where he said he's hoping to pitch Donald Trump on the issue. Damon told The Associated Press on Saturday that clean water accessibility isn't a partisan issue and demands "an all-hands-on-deck approach to solve this." The actor has publically supported

Democrats, including Hillary Clinton. When asked his response to the election, Damon demurred and said hopes Trump will be open to backing clean water programs like his nonprofit Water.org. Said Damon: "Hopefully we'll get our turn." Damon in 2009 founded Water.org with civil engineer Gary White. It uses micro-finance loans to bring hygienic connections to water and toilets to impoverished communities. Damon also spoke about the issue at the Davos Forum last week.

### Actor killed while filming scene for Australian music video

**SYDNEY** (AP)—An actor was killed while filming a scene for an Australian band's music video on Monday, po-

lice said. The man died at a bar in the Queensland city of Brisbane while filming a scene that involved several firearms, Queensland Police Detective Inspector Tom Armitt said. He declined to release the name of the band, though confirmed it was Australian. During the scene, several actors fired their guns and the actor somehow received wounds to his chest, Armitt said. No one else was injured. It was not immediately clear whether the guns were loaded with live ammunition or blanks, Armitt said. Blank cartridges can still cause injuries if fired at close range. "I can't tell you whether they are live or real firearms," Armitt told reporters. "I can't tell you the type of ammunition that

were being used. That will be a subject of the investigation." Police did not release the actor's name.

### Whitehead, Desmond receive medals from library association

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Colson Whitehead's latest honor is a thank-you from the country's libraries. Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad" has won the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, a \$5,000 prize presented by the American Library Association. His novel about a runaway slave and the very real railroad used as a path to freedom has already won the National Book Award and is a finalist for the \$75,000 the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award. On Sunday, the library asso-

ciation also told The Associated Press that the nonfiction medal was given to Matthew Desmond for "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City." Runners-up, each of whom receive \$1,000, included Michael Chabon for "Moonglow" and Zadie Smith for "Swing Time" in fiction, and Patricia Bell-Scott for "The Firebrand and the First Lady" and Patrick Phillips for "Blood at the Root" in nonfiction. The medals were established in 2012 and are sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, along with the library association's Booklist publication and the Reference and User Services Association. Previous winners include Doris Kearns Goodwin, Donna Tartt and Anthony Doerr.

## Mother-in-law's pop-ins make angry wife pop off

**DEAR ABBY:** My mother-in-law has begun doing the "pop-in." My husband passive-aggressively hinted that he wished he had known she was coming over. Her response was, "I'm your mother; I don't need to let you know when I'm coming over." I regard this as total disrespect.

She has done this plenty of times—including popping in when I was having a dinner with my parents and children, which made her mad because she and my father-in-law hadn't been invited.

She did the pop-in again last week. My husband, four children and I were about to sit down to a family dinner when she rang the doorbell. I didn't have enough food for her and my father-in-law, which made us all uncomfortable. She made a sarcastic comment, "Gee, I guess I shouldn't have come over," then she sat in the living room staring at us as we ate.

I have begged my husband to say something, but he says it would be disrespectful. I said it is disrespectful that she comes over without checking with us first. What's your take on this?

NO POP-INS, PLEASE

**DEAR NO POP-INS:** You have my sympathy. Your mother-in-law is a handful. Your husband may be so cowed by his mother that he's afraid to assert himself. You are under

no obligation to entertain anyone who pops in, including her. The next time she shows up unannounced, remind her to call first and suggest that she come back some other time.

**DEAR ABBY:** My fiancée has a 15-year-old son, "Jason," who spends countless hours in his room playing Xbox with his buddies. He is loud and obviously has fun, by the sound of it. However, when he comes out for meals, he doesn't communicate or answer questions like, "How was school?" or "What do you think of that?"

My fiancée and I don't live together. We see each other three times a year for two to three weeks at a time. My fiancée says Jason acts the same way whether I'm here or not. He isn't close with his dad, either.

Is this a phase that he will grow out of, or does he need professional help? We get along, but there is never much conversation. I ask questions to encourage interaction, but it hasn't been successful.

FRUSTRATED IN MONTANA

**DEAR FRUSTRATED:** Whether Jason's going through a phase or not depends on whether he has always had poor verbal skills and ignored questions he was asked. He might be reluctant to answer because he's having problems socially or

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

academically in school, or because the opinions you're asking for concern things he has never given much thought to.

Boys that age are sometimes less verbal than when they are older, and their dependence on social media has contributed to it. Teens who spend most of their time in the virtual world tend to have lower verbal abilities than those who spend less.

If you and your fiancée are truly concerned, she should talk about this with a counselor at Jason's school and ask if counseling or intervention of any kind is needed.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

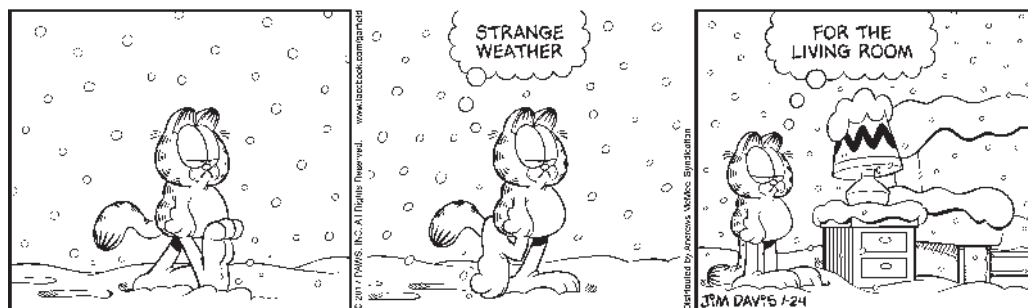
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Water source

5 Napkin's place

8 Egyptian pyramid city

12 Notion

13 Shade tree

14 Frozen desserts

15 Summer dress fabrics

17 Poet Ogden

18 Map lines (Abbr.)

19 Approves

20 — Carlo

21 Blithe

22 Distant

23 Tack on

26 Joseph Smith followers

30 Pitcher Nolan

31 Work unit

32 Rhyming tributes

33 Squirms

35 Arbiter

36 Singer Cassidy

37 Owns

**DOWN**

38 San Diego player

41 Dress (up)

42 Narc's org.

45 Zhivago's love

46 "Howl" poet Allen

48 Russian river

49 Squid squirt

50 Writer Rice

51 Apportion

52 Cooking fuel

53 Salon jobs

1 Mannequin toppers

2 Tend texts

3 Camera part

4 Trail the pack

5 Not watertight

6 Charitable gifts

7 Evening hrs.

8 Huge, in slang

9 Optimist's credo

10 Pizzazz

11 Tennis legend Arthur

16 Deception

20 Ruin the veneer

21 Bar mixer

22 London mist

23 "Bow-wow!"

24 Memo letters

25 Passing craze

26 —

27 Quirky

28 Pos. opposite

29 Away from

31 Greek H

34 Leading lady?

35 Binges

37 Gridlock sounds

38 Jack Horner's prize

39 Bern's river

40 "Phooey!"

41 Funny Fey

42 Say it isn't so

43 Coastal eagle

44 Mellows

46 Showbiz job

47 Wicked

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

V	O	W	J	A	R	L	F	A	N
E	P	I	C	A	L	E	O	L	D
R	E	N	O	M	O	S	O	O	Z
B	R	O	M	T	U	S	K		
K	A	T	S	K	I	F	F	S	
A	T	F	I	R	S	T	I	N	I
B	O	O	N	A	I	R	G	A	N
O	M	E	G	A	S	N	U	G	G
Y	E	S	S	I	H	S	N	L	
H	M	O	S	O	A	S	S		
S	C	L	O	Y	E	T	S	L	O
I	S	A	W	A	X	C	S	I	T
P	E	G	S	L	Y	E	P	A	W

Yesterday's answer 1-24

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Misha Barton, 31; Tatyana Ali, 38; Ed Helms, 43; Neil Diamond, 76.

**Happy Birthday:** Make a difference, reach out and offer your services and help to those in need. An enthusiastic approach will bring positive and negative results. You can't please everyone, so choose your battles wisely and aim to do what brings you the most satisfaction. Change will lead to greater satisfaction as well as prosperity. Be a participant and make a difference. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 24, 29, 38, 43.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Learn as you go. Your dedication and desire to do your best will be praised by some but shunned by those who are jealous of you. Don't let anyone interfere with your progress. Disagreements will only slow you down. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Foolish spending or selling yourself short when negotiating a deal will be apparent if you don't take your time and consider unique ways to get the most out of your dollar, your time and your effort. Don't settle for less. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Emotions will take over, leading to disruption if you aren't aware of all sides of a situation. Take a step back and consider what's best for everyone, and do your best to make it happen. Avoid demanding people. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Live by your rules. Make suggestions and paint a colorful picture of the way you see your future unfolding. Honesty and integrity will

help you avoid being trapped in a situation that doesn't live up to your expectations. Romance is featured. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't get angry—get moving. Look for alternatives. Don't feel the need to stay put if you are bored. A partnership you form with someone will offer a little extra income and a chance to be your own boss. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Set up shop and get things done. Don't linger when a timeline is in force. Stretch your imagination and you will discover ways to make your life easier. Surprise someone who is expecting you to fall short. Romance is encouraged. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Be careful how you handle friends and relatives. A diplomatic and disciplined approach to suggestions will help you avoid getting into a dispute. If you want to bring about change, offer incentives and choices. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Listen and learn. Share your experience and knowledge. This is a great day for discovery and putting new plans in motion. Children, friends and lovers will play a major role in your life and the decisions you make moving forward. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Listen to sound advice. It's best to take time to mull over what you want to do or say before you jump into action. Delays will arise while traveling, or confusion will set in regarding domestic issues. Avoid confrontations. ★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Secrets will be revealed due to emotional outbursts. Be prepared to take care of any damages that occur as a result of someone's lack of discretion. Keep your plans simple, honest and within reason to avoid controversy. Make love, not war. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Be the one to bring about positive change. Get involved in events that will give you the platform you need to raise awareness. It takes reason, common sense and an astute ability to get things done properly and on time. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Proceed with caution. Trying to fit too much into your day will bring few results. It is best to concentrate on whatever will bring the highest returns. Getting emotionally caught up in someone else's affairs will be to your detriment. ★★

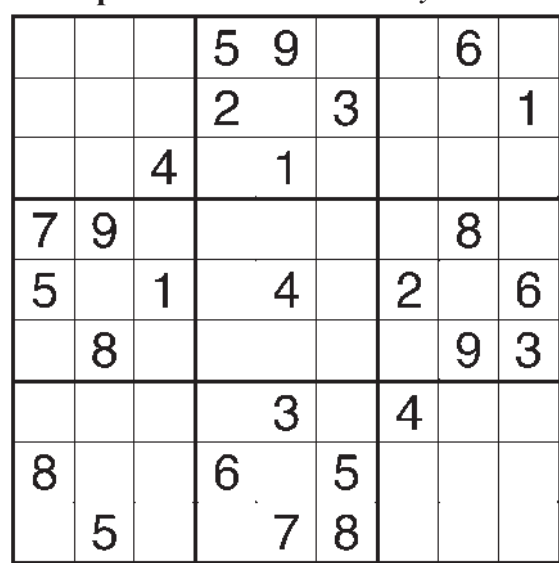
**Birthday Baby:** You are progressive, inventive and timely. You are passionate and intense.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

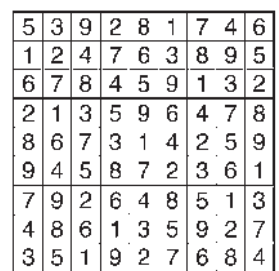


Difficulty Level ★★

1/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level: ★

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BREATHALYZER TEST

Solution: 9 letters



©2017 Andrew Volkes www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 1/24

Acts, Alcolizer, Alco Sensor, Amount, Anode, Arrest, Blow, Cars, Cathode, Changes, Color, Cops, Crime, Crystals, Curbside, Detector, Device, Digital, Drunk-o-meter, Electronic, Enforced, Estimate, Ethanol, Evidence, Exhale, Fines, Keys, Laws, Legal, Level, Measure, Oxygen, Personal, Police, Reading, Roadside, Sober, Sulfate, Temperature, Time, Wet

Yesterday's Answer: Unusually

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contains 43 puzzles.)

## STUMPED?

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**Is Looking for**  
**Insurance Sales Agent**  
-2 or more years of experience, college graduate. Knowledge in Excel, Peach Tree and other accounting services. Send your resume to; [mgabzcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:mgabzcenter@yahoo.com) or call 234-6278.

**CURRY ENTERPRISES, LLC DBA WILD BILLS**  
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Send your resume to: [mgabzcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:mgabzcenter@yahoo.com) or call 234-6278.

WHATZIT Solution: Adele

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*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$30</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$45</b>

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

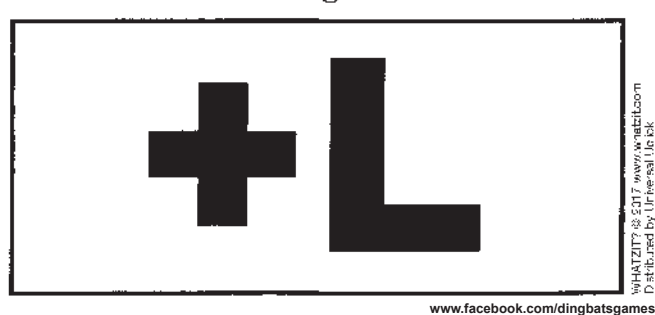
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

  
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.  


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[www.guam.wish.org](http://www.guam.wish.org)



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB 17-OVR-078**

**SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2017**      **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“LEASE OF A 4X4 (4 DOORS) PICK-UP TRUCK FOR THE OFFICE OF THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, M.S. CRC  
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Position:** Scuba Diving Instructor (Self-Enrichment Educational Teachers) x1  
**Work Location:** Garapan, Saipan & other diving sites in the CNMI.  
**Working Hours:** Full-time (8hrs/day, 40hrs/week; Flex Time)  
**Wage:** \$18.37/hr.; frequency= monthly; O.T.= X 1.5  
**Job Duties:** Teach, instruct, and guide scuba diving activities to individuals or groups at public or private facilities. Explains & demonstrates the basic of scuba diving & teaches the proper use of diving equipments. Conduct certification classes to achieve proficiency in diving. May assist customers at Employer's outdoor sports retail shop, and do other related duties as assigned.  
**Requirements:** Minimum 5 years of work experience as scuba diving instructor. Must be a PADI or NAUI certified, licensed Scuba Diving Instructor. Must be able to speak, read and write Japanese language enough to teach and instruct scuba diving to tourists and regulars from Japan, that dominate the nationality of the Company's customers.  
**Compensations:** Workers' Compensation provided. Other compensations negotiable.

Please send your resume with a copy of your diving instructor license or your inquiry by email or e-mail to:  
**AQUA CONNECTIONS, INC.**  
E-mail [aqua@pticom.com](mailto:aqua@pticom.com)  
Fax: (670) 233-3304

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

JERRY TALOSIG  
Petitioner.  
vs  
LEONORA CABRAL  
Respondent

) FCD-DI CIVIL  
) ACTION NO.  
) 16-0241  
)  
) **SUMMONS FOR  
PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or email a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 592 BOX 10000 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 29th day of December.

/s/ Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**


RONALD P. EPAN  
Petitioner,  
vs.  
ANALYN  
PELAEZ-EPAN  
Respondent,

) FCD-DI-  
) CIVIL ACTION  
) NO. 17-0018  
)  
) **SUMMONS  
FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 500680 MP 96950 Saipan as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint. Dated this 11th day of January, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

**Legislative Bureau**  
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Examination Announcement Number:** LB-JVA-17-003      **Position:** Journal Clerk  
**PL-UNGRADED:** \$17,456.99 Annual      **Opening Date:** January 24, 2017  
**Closing Date:** February 07, 2017

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee

**Location:** Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

**General Duties:**

- Records and transcribes all sessions. Transcriptions must be completed expeditiously and prior to the following session;
- Assists the Clerk in maintaining an up to date status table of legislative documents;
- Assists the Clerk in preparation of materials for sessions and other legislative meetings;
- Assists the Clerk in the duplication and dissemination of documents during sessions;
- Prepares the compilation of legislative journals for publication by the Legislative Clerk;
- Acts in the capacity of the Legislative Clerk in the absence of the Legislative Clerk;
- Performs other duties as assigned.

**Qualifications and Requirements:**

- Possess two years relevant work experience or a minimum of an A.A. or A.S. degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education;
- Knowledgeable with word processing with word processing, and interpretive understanding of at least two of the official languages of the CNMI preferred.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at [www.cnmileg.gov.mp](http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp) or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

**TAGA Sports** is now on [issuu.com/tagasports](http://issuu.com/tagasports)!

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**To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747**



# Super Bowl will pit Brady's Pats vs Ryan's Falcons



**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.**

(AP)—A season that began with Tom Brady serving a four-game suspension will end with him in the Super Bowl, where his New England Patriots will take on Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons.

While much of the attention between now and the NFL championship game on Feb. 5 in Houston will be focused on Brady vs. Ryan, the truly key matchup could be Atlanta's score-at-will offense, which produced the most points during the regular season, against the unheralded defense of New England, which allowed the fewest.

And these two teams are playing their best football at the most important time.

AFC champion New England (16-2) has won nine consecutive games - and hasn't even trailed since Nov. 27. NFC champion Atlanta (13-5) has won its past six in a row, scoring at least 33 points in each.

"We'll enjoy this," Ryan said after earning his first Super Bowl trip in his ninth season, "but we've got some work to do."

Brady and coach Bill Belichick will be seeking their - and the Patriots'—fifth Lombardi Trophy, and second in three years. This will be the franchise's league-record ninth appearance in the Super Bowl, including titles in the 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2015 editions.

"This team showed a lot of mental toughness over the course of the year," Brady said.

The Falcons have never won the Super Bowl. This will be Atlanta's second trip to the big game; it lost to Denver in 1999.

The club's never had a quarterback quite as good as Ryan, though.

The guy nicknamed "Matty Ice" went 27 for 38 for 392 yards, four touchdowns and zero interceptions, while adding a rushing TD, to boot, leading Atlanta past Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers 44-21 on Sunday in



the NFC championship game.

"We did exactly what we've been doing all year and it feels really good," Ryan said after becoming the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for at least three TDs in four consecutive postseason games. "We'll be ready to go. That's for sure."

Later Sunday, the 39-year-old Brady tied Hall of Famer Joe Montana's record with a ninth three-TD postseason game, helping the Patriots beat Ben Roethlisberger 36-17 for the AFC championship.

Odds makers didn't even wait for the second game to end before making New England a 3-point favorite over Atlanta in the Super Bowl.

New England opened the season with a 3-1 record despite using two backup quarterbacks while playing those games without Brady after he went through a lengthy court battle in an unsuccessful bid to have his ban overturned for what became known as "Deflategate." NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Brady because the league said it determined the Patriots intentionally underinflated footballs used in an AFC championship game victory two years ago.

During Sunday's game in Foxborough, Massachusetts, spectators mocked Goodell by chanting "Where is Roger?" - he chose to attend the game in

Atlanta instead.

And as well as Brady played 32 for 42 for 384 yards, those three scores and zero interceptions—it was the way New England's defense played that stood out.

Right from the get-go, too: On Pittsburgh's first two drives, nine plays yielded a total of 26 yards. Then there was the stand late in the second quarter, when the Steelers had first-and-goal at the 1-foot line and wound up settling for a field goal. And, by game's end, the Patriots had forced two turnovers.

New England ranked No. 1 in the NFL in points allowed per game at 15.6, and it gave up only 326.4 yards per game,

New England Patriots cornerback Malcolm Butler (21) breaks up a pass intended for Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown (84) during the first half of the AFC championship NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass.

eighth-best.

MVP favorite Ryan, meanwhile, directed a unit orchestrated by offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan - expected to be hired after the season as San Francisco's new head coach, he's the son of two-time Super Bowl champion coach Mike Shanahan - that topped the league in scoring

(33.8) and ranked second in yards (415.8).

Brady, a three-time Super Bowl MVP and two-time league MVP, and the Patriots also own a pretty effective offense, even after losing star tight end Rob Gronkowski to an injury. New England ranked fourth in yards (386.2) and third in points (27.6).

Another thing these teams have in common is that neither hurts itself with turnovers: They tied for the fewest in the regular season, with 11.

That could be part of why bookies are expecting a high-scoring game, with most setting the over-under at 58 points.

## Bookies make Patriots a 3-point pick with record over/under

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Oddsmakers like the New England Patriots by a field goal over the Atlanta Falcons in what experts think will be a high-scoring Super Bowl.

Most are also expecting an offensive showdown, with an over/under of 59 at some sports books the biggest ever in Super Bowl history.

"You've got the Patriots and then you have this scoring machine in Atlanta," said veteran oddsmaker Jimmy Vaccaro at the South Point. "There should be a lot of points on the board."

The AFC title game had barely entered the fourth quarter when oddsmakers around town began putting up their numbers. There was agreement all around that the Patriots should be a 3-point pick, though some had the over/under at 58 instead of 59.

There was also agreement that the legal handle on the game could exceed the record \$132.5 million bet on last year's Super Bowl.

"I think we have a real shot at a record handle," said Chuck Esposito, oddsmaker for Station Casinos. "These teams are huge offensive teams and you're going to see a lot of action on the total."

Odds makers had plenty of

history on their side in finding a line that could stick at 3 points all the way until kickoff. The Patriots have won four Super Bowls and the margin of victory in all but one was 3 points.

"Three seems to be the prevailing number for them in Super Bowls," Esposito said.

Westgate Super Book oddsmaker Jeff Sherman said the Super Bowl handle might have gone even higher had Green Bay made the title game. Atlanta doesn't have a big following among casual sports bettors, but there will still be plenty of action.

"It won't be any problem," he said. "There are plenty of people with opinions on the game."

Sherman said the 3-point spread will probably stand because if it moved to 3 1/2 casual bettors would be putting money on the Falcons and if it dropped to 2 1/2, the so-called "sharps" would be all over the Patriots.

In addition to the point spread and total bets, sports books will offer hundreds of different parlay bets ranging from which team will win the opening coin flip to how many points will be scored in the third quarter.

## Royals' Ventura killed in car crash in Dominican Republic



**KANSAS CITY, Mo.**

(AP)—Yordano Ventura quit school as a teenager so he could begin working a construction job to help his family make ends meet, laboring day after day in the hot sun of the Dominican Republic.

It was a chance tryout with the Kansas City Royals that changed the trajectory of his life.

Yordano wowed scouts with an electrifying fastball, the best

they had seen in years, and a confident demeanor that bordered on brash and arrogant. And both of those traits served him well as he rocketed to the major leagues, helped the Royals win a long-awaited World Series championship in 2015, and became one of the most popular players in a city that embraced baseball one again.

Ventura, whose nickname "Ace" fit so perfectly, died Sunday in a car crash on a stretch of highway near the town of San

Adrian in his native Dominican Republic. He was 25.

"Our team and our organization is hurting deeply," Royals general manager Dayton Moore said. "It's certainly something that puts everything into strong perspective, and challenges us all to never grow tired or weary or cease to do what is right, and loving others. Nobody is guaranteed tomorrow."

"We loved Yordano," Moore said. "We loved his heart, we loved who he was as a team-

mate, a friend. He was somebody that challenged us all and made us better and I'm going to miss him."

Highway patrol spokesman Jacobo Mateo said Ventura died on a stretch of highway 40 miles northwest of Santo Domingo, the nation's capital. Mateo did not say whether Ventura was driving.

He's the second young star pitcher to die in past four months. Marlins ace Jose Fernandez was 24 when he

was killed along with two other men in a boating accident near Miami Beach in late September.

Also Sunday, former major league infielder Andy Marte died in a separate car accident in the Dominican Republic. Metropolitan traffic authorities said he died about 95 miles north of the capital.

"I was traveling to the airport this morning and I got a phone call wanting to know if I'd heard about Yordano, and

I thought they meant Marte," Moore said. "My first thought was, 'Were they together?'"

"Then shortly afterwards, I got a call from Major League Baseball confirming this tragedy."

The Dominican Republic has the second-highest traffic-related death rate in the world—officials there believe alcohol, speed and a blatant disregard for traffic laws is to blame. Oscar Taveras, Jose Oliva, Rufino Linares and Jose Uribe are among players who have died in crashes in the country.



# Curry, Thompson power Warriors past Magic



**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—The noon Eastern Standard Time tipoff was more than a little challenging for Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors. At first, anyway.

Tied at halftime, the Warriors woke up. Curry and Klay Thompson each finished with seven 3-pointers and the Warriors won their seventh straight game, beating the Orlando Magic 118-98 on Sunday.

This was the first Eastern time zone noon tip for the Warriors since 1995, when they lost by 34 points in Orlando.

"It just challenges you mentally," Curry said of the early start. "We were talking about it in the locker room before the game. It is early, but it doesn't matter what time the game is, we have to go out and get a win."

Curry had 14 points as the Warriors outscored Orlando 42-24 in the third quarter. He didn't play in the fourth period.

Curry went 7 for 13 on 3s and scored 27 points while Thompson as 7 for 9 from behind the arc and had 21 points. The Warriors shot 19 of 42 overall from 3-point range while the Magic went 7 for 28.

After trailing by 11 in the first half and committing a dozen turnovers, the Warriors went into the break even at 50.

"Third quarter was great," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It seems to be the time when we pick up our defense and it translates into some transition hoops and 3-pointers."

Kevin Durant added 15 points for the Warriors, Zaza Pachulia had 14 and JaVale McGee added 13.

Elfrid Payton led Orlando with 23 points. Nikola Vucevic, Jeff Green, C.J. Watson and Bismack Biyombo each had 12.

"I think they took care of the ball much better in the third quarter," Vucevic said. "We didn't do a good job defensively."

Meanwhile, it has been rumored that Durant and Serge Ibaka didn't get along when they were teammates with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The former teammates met Sunday on opposite sides for the first time since they both departed Oklahoma City last summer. There seemed to be a couple of unfriendly exchanges between Durant and Ibaka during the game but Durant said that wasn't the case.

"I was not jawing with Serge," said Durant. "Y'all want me to be beefing with every player in the league. I was not jawing with Serge."

## Mavericks 122, Lakers 73

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki and



Orlando Magic forward Aaron Gordon (00) is defended underneath the basket by Golden State Warriors forward Andre Iguodala, left, and center JaVale McGee (1) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017.

through the fourth quarter for the win.

Gary Harris scored 22 points and Nikola Jokic had 18 points and eight rebounds for the Nuggets on the second night of a back-to-back. Wilson Chandler and Jamal Murray added 17 points each for Denver, which played without Emmanuel Mudiay because of a sore back.

Kris Dunn had 10 points and nine assists for the Wolves while starting for Ricky Rubio, who missed the game to attend his grandmother's funeral.

## Suns 115, Raptors 103

In Toronto, Eric Bledsoe scored a career-high 40 points and had 13 assists and Phoenix handed Toronto its third straight loss.

Bledsoe was 11 of 17 from the floor, including 4 of 7 from 3-point range, and Devin Booker added 20 points as the Suns won their second straight road game following Saturday's win at New York. The victory also completed a season sweep of the Raptors for the first time since 2013-14 and improved Phoenix to 11-6 against Eastern Conference teams this season.

DeMar DeRozan had 22 points for Toronto and Jonas Valanciunas added 16 points and 12 rebounds for his 17th double-double of the season. It's the first time the Raptors have lost three straight since Nov. 6-10, 2015.

the Dallas Mavericks had something to prove on Sunday following two straight tough losses.

Coming off a three-point effort in an overtime loss on Friday, Nowitzki scored all 13 of his points in the first half and Dallas gave the Los Angeles Lakers the worst loss in their history, 122-73.

"We didn't show up to play," Lakers coach Luke Walton said. "It's embarrassing for us as a team and for us as an organization. The effort just wasn't there tonight, which I don't understand."

The 49-point defeat just edged Los Angeles' two previous worst losses at 48 points, most recently 123-75 at Utah on March 28, 2016.

The Mavericks' winning

margin was the third-largest in their history.

It was Dallas' 13th straight win over the Lakers, who have lost six of their last seven games overall.

After a season-best three-game winning streak, the Mavericks had blown a nine-point halftime lead at Miami on Thursday and lost to Utah on Friday.

Nowitzki was 1 for 13 against the Jazz, including a missed 3-pointer that would have tied the game in overtime.

"I looked sluggish the other night on that back-to-back," Nowitzki said, "but took a day off yesterday, didn't do anything. Felt a lot better today."

The game was close for 10 minutes, with Dallas leading

23-22 before the Mavericks scored the next 15 points to blow it open. Nowitzki had seven points during the run. He played just 20 minutes.

Justin Anderson led seven Mavericks in double figures with a game-high 19 points in 16 minutes, his most playing time since Dec. 27.

The Mavericks led 67-33 at the half and never looked back. They both scored their most points and allowed the fewest in a half and a game this season. The 34-point halftime lead was the third-largest in franchise history.

The Lakers scored their fewest points in a quarter, a first half and a game.

"What's deflating is that we didn't guard anybody tonight," Lakers forward Julius

Randle said.

Lou Williams led the Lakers with 15 points.

Dallas' Seth Curry scored 14 points, including seven straight in the first quarter.

## Timberwolves 111, Nuggets 108

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 32 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists and hit the go-ahead shot with 42.5 seconds to play to lead Minnesota over Denver.

Towns hit 13 of 19 shots and also had four blocks and Andrew Wiggins scored 24 points in Minnesota's fourth straight home win. Shabazz Muhammad scored 20 points off the bench and the Wolves rallied from nine points down midway

# Germany's top Olympic official proposes Russia ban

**MOSCOW (AP)**—The president of the German Olympic Committee has called for Russia to be banned from the 2018 and 2020 Olympics if sports bosses there are found to have known about state-sponsored doping.

Alfons Hoermann told Die Welt newspaper that bans from the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang and the 2020 summer games in Tokyo would provide a "clear signal" of zero tolerance for doping. Twelve Russian medalists from the 2014 Sochi Olympics were accused of benefiting from a massive doping cover-up scheme.

World Anti-Doping Agency investigations have accused Russian govern-

ment officials and anti-doping leaders of running the scheme, but not the Russian Olympic Committee.

Hoermann says if further investigations confirm state-backed doping and show ROC involvement, it would be reasonable for the International Olympic Committee to ban Russia from the 2018 and 2020 games. IOC president Thomas Bach was Hoermann's predecessor as head of the German Olympic body.

"If someone breaches the IOC charter in such a clear way, then they must face the harshest form of punishment," Hoermann said in comments published Sunday.

Hoermann added that it was "hard to imagine" that the

ROC would not have known of a mass doping scheme.

"That seems hardly possible in my understanding of a sport organization in such a country as Russia," he said.

Also Sunday, German TV channel ARD broadcast a documentary alleging that a suspended Russian coach has continued working with an Olympic-level runner and that other unnamed coaches continue to give their athletes steroids despite ongoing investigations into Russian doping and a ban on Russian teams in international track and field competitions.

ARD broadcast undercover

footage apparently showing coach Vladimir Kazarin coaching this month in the city of Yekaterinburg, 880 miles (1,400 kilometers) east of Moscow.

ARD alleged Kazarin was coaching Artyom Denmukhametov, who was nominated by Russia for the 4x400-meter relay at last year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro but didn't race because the Russian team was excluded over evidence of widespread drug use. Denmukhametov has never failed a test.

"He's still working," Russian runner Andrei Dmitriev, who filmed the footage, said of Kazarin to ARD.

Kazarin is not allowed to have any role in sport because of an ongoing investigation into doping among his former group of women's 800-meter runners, and has been recommended for a lifetime ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency. He previously coached 2012 Olympic gold and bronze medalists Maria Savinova and Ekaterina Poistogova, who were both filmed apparently admitting to steroid use in a previous ARD film.

The footage comes a day before a taskforce from track and field's world governing body, the IAAF, is due to visit Moscow for meeting with state officials and the leadership of the Russian track federation, known as RusAF.



# Serena relies on Plan B to reach quarterfinals



**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)—With her serve misfiring and the ball coming back at her from some irregular angles, it was time for Serena Williams to go to Plan B.

Williams knuckled down and just scrapped her way to a 7-5, 6-4 win over No. 16-seeded Barbora Strycova on Monday to reach the quarterfinals of the Australian Open for the 11th time.

Despite four service breaks—two in the first four games

United States' Serena Williams makes a backhand return to Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 23, 2017.

gain the No. 1 ranking as well from Angelique Kerber.

Next up, she'll face No. 9 Johanna Konta, who beat

Ekaterina Makarova for the second straight year in the fourth round. The 2016 semifinalist was only broken once and broke Makarova four times in the 6-1, 6-4 win.

She's excited at the prospect of a quarterfinal with Williams, one of her inspirations as a young player.

"She's one of the few players still playing I watched growing

up," Konta said. "It's an incredible honor and I can't wait to share the court with her."

Mirjana Lucic-Baroni reached the semifinals at Wimbledon in 1999 as a 17-year-old and, after a long, difficult time off the tour, she has returned to the quarterfinals of a major for the first time since.

She beat U.S. qualifier Jennifer Brady 6-4, 6-2 and will next play U.S. Open finalist Karolina Pliskova, who ended Australia's involvement in the singles draws with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Daria Gavrilova.

Whatever comes of it, the 34-year-old Lucic-Baroni said she'd make the most of the moment.

"The way I stopped, it wasn't really kind of by my choice. I couldn't travel. I wasn't able to travel. I was stopped at the moment. I didn't want to stop," she said. "I felt kind of a little bit of unfinished business. I still wanted to play on a stage like this, on a full court like this. Come out, play, have these wins, be in a quarterfinal of a Slam."

"They're incredible feelings. I've done this sport since I was a little kid. These are kind of, like, awards for all the hard work."

Williams, a possible semifinal rival, was relaxed after her match, retelling a story about her recent engagement and a trip to Rome.

## No Murray or Djokovic but no added pressure for Wawrinka

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)—Fourth seed Stan Wawrinka denied there is additional pressure on him to win the Australian Open, despite Andy Murray following Novak Djokovic out of the grand slam.

Murray was stunned by unseeded Mischa Zverev on Sunday, the German claiming a remarkable 7-5 5-7 6-2 6-4 fourth-round victory in Melbourne.

Zverev's progression to the quarter-finals means the Australian Open will be without the world number one and defending champion Novak Djokovic for the second week, after the latter was upstaged by Denis Istomin in round two.

semi or final that I will not have to play Andy or Novak. That's the last thing in my head.

"So far I have a big match in quarter-final. It's for sure opening the draw on the other side with Novak not here. It's going to be interesting to see who is going to get there. But you have some big players there. You have [Rafael] Nadal. Roger [Federer] is playing now against [Kei] Nishikori.

"I just think it's interesting tournament."

Of Murray's four-set loss on Rod Laver Arena, the Brit failing to advance beyond the fourth round of the Australian Open for the first time since 2009, Wawrinka added: "It's a big surprise for sure.

"It shows that it's not so easy as we can think, or when we see the draw, to just win, keep winning all the time."

"He's number one in the world. He's been amazing last year, especially the way he finished the year by winning every tournament he was playing.

"But still, every match you have to enter the court, you have to fight. You play against some really strong player. It's tough to just win or be in the final in every tournament for any player."

It opens up the draw for players like 2014 champion Wawrinka, who overcame Andreas Seppi 7-6 (7-2) 7-6 (7-4) 7-6 (7-4), but the three-time major champion is refusing to look too far ahead.

"I don't know why I should feel more pressure," Wawrinka said. "I'm just in quarter-final."

"It's big surprise that they not in the draw anymore, but my next match is the quarter-final. I'm not thinking about

## BIGGER

From Page 28

juniors. For standup paddling, participants in the 7 and over age group will cover a 50m course, 100m for 11 and up, and 100m and 300m for adults.

For Sunday's races (long course), adult teams will head out of Kili Beach and navigate around Managaha to complete the estimated 15-mile course. The junior teams will cover a shorter distance—about six miles and from Kili Beach to the Garapan Fishing Base and back.

"We will have exciting races as clubs, especially

those here on Saipan, have been preparing their paddlers for this annual event. We are inviting the public to come and support our paddlers and the visiting teams from Guam," Rasa said.

Saipan Paddling Club, Marianas Outrigger Canoe, Marianas Pacific Paddlers, and Hoe Lokahi are the local groups expected to join this weekend's races.

"We would like to thank all our generous sponsors and volunteers for without their help, holding this event will not be possible," the Napu official added.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation

and Best Sunshine International are among the returning supporters of the competition as they recently turned in their respective donations for the event. The TSL Foundation gave \$2,500 worth of in-kind donation, while BSI presented a check worth \$1,000 to Napu for the group's hosting of the tournament.

The Timmy Would Go Memorial Paddle Classic is held in memory of Timothy Lee Salas Wesley Jr., who was also called "Timmy Boy". He died on Jan. 3, 2015 as he tried to rescue two young girls from drowning in the waters at Forbidden Island.

## ACE

From Page 28

scoreless in the second.

Only Matt Duenas hit more than 2 points for his team in the second-quarter letdown, while Ace Hardware got contributions from Sid Quan and the returning Jun Estolas off the bench and its main gunner Ken Viray. Quan, who did not play in Ace Hardware's loss to Saipan Apparel last week, had 7 markers in the second canto, while Estolas registered the team's last 5 points, and Viray added 5.

Viray and Quan went on to can baskets that helped Ace Hardware keep the lead in the third and withstand Duenas' rally. They recorded all of Ace's 9 points for their 44-41

lead, going into the final canto.

Quan continued to make up for his earlier absence as he posted 6 more points in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter, while Don Brennan and Troy Rosario, who had a good start but failed to sustain it in the next two periods, stepped up in the final canto. Brennan and Rosario made two field goals apiece and teamed up with Viray in foiling Duenas Compound's repeated comeback bids. Brennan registered his baskets in back-to-back fashion, while Rosario hit Ace Hardware's last field goal, and Viray logged 4 of the squad's final 7 points for a team-high 20.

Duenas Compound failed to recover in the fourth frame as again only Matt Duenas nailed

more than two field goals for the squad. Schmidt, who tallied 6 points in the third quarter, made only one field goal and two free throws in the fourth. Duenas Compound's other gunners were off, too with Ernest Duenas having a quiet 8 points and Perry Inos recording only 5—a far cry from his 21 markers in their 97-86 win over the Patriots in the first round of the playoffs.

**Ace Hardware 65** — Viray 20, Quan 15, Rosario 11, Brennan 9, Estolas 5, Younis 3, J. Sablan 2.

**Duenas Compound 58** — Schmidt 22, Matt Duenas 20, E. Duenas 8, Inos 5, Santos 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-17, 35-24, 44-41, 65-58.

## TDI

From Page 28

opened a 21-9 advantage and despite being threatened by GPPC in the second quarter, the former retained the driver's seat in the second half for its second straight win.

Alex Lauron and Sid Quan combined for 14 points in the first quarter to lift Joeten to a 12-point lead. GPPC then moved within a deuce at the half, 33-35, thanks to Randy Mungcal's 14 points in the second quarter.

However, GPPC just could not overhaul the deficit in the second half with Lauron and Quan alternately hitting baskets that repeatedly frustrated their foes. Quan finished off GPPC by making Joeten's last 6 points.

Quan ended up with 17 markers, while Lauron top-

scored for Joeten with his 18. Mungcal led all scorers with his 20 points.

### First Game

**Joeten 73** — Lauron 18, Quan 17, Devero 10, Chariton 8, Dionisio 8, Sambile 4, Muna 4, Rogolifoi 2.

**GPPC 64** — Mungcal 20, R. Tagle 12, Ocampo 11, Norial 7, Santos 5, Sampang 4, Bandojo 2, Advincula 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-9, 35-33, 54-50, 73-64.

### Second Game

**TDI 75** — Velasco 21, A. Reyes 20, J. Reyes 14, K. Arreza 7, Barros 6, N. Arreza 5, Pollisco 2.

**Mobil/COAG 66** — Gomez 23, Almario 14, Torres 8, Sison 7, Manzano 6, Agustin 4, Cisnero 2, Muna 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-18, 42-32, 61-50, 75-66.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	28	16	.636	—
Boston	26	17	.605	1½
New York	19	26	.422	9½
Philadelphia	15	27	.357	12
Brooklyn	9	34	.209	18½
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	26	18	.591	—
Washington	23	20	.535	2½
Charlotte	23	21	.523	3
Orlando	18	28	.391	9
Miami	14	30	.318	12
Central Division				
Cleveland	30	12	.714	—
Indiana	22	21	.512	8½
Chicago	22	23	.489	9½
Detroit	21	24	.467	10½
Milwaukee	20	23	.465	10½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	34	9	.791	—
Houston	34	13	.723	2
Memphis	26	20	.565	9½
New Orleans	17	27	.386	17½
Dallas	15	29	.341	19½
Northwest Division				
Utah	29	16	.644	—
Oklahoma City	25	19	.568	3½
Denver	18	25	.419	10
Portland	19	27	.413	10½
Minnesota	16	28	.364	12½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	38	6	.864	—
L.A. Clippers	29	16	.644	9½
Sacramento	16	27	.372	21½
Phoenix	15	29	.341	23
L.A. Lakers	16	32	.333	24
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



# 2016 SEDA Winter/Spring Season Awards Ceremony

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Gilbert “Hitman” Gatmaitan, right, bags two most valuable player trophies, Masters and A divisions, to lead the other recipients of the prestigious award in last Sunday’s Saipan Electronic Darts Association 2016 Winter/Spring season ceremony at Pacific Island Clubs’ Charley’s Cabaret



Bud Light Cup C division champion 6JMS Mafia III with team sponsor George Medina, third right.



The 6JMS Proofers members with their A division’s third place awards.



Two-division MVP Gilbert Gatmaitan, right, joins his teammates at 6JMS Mafia for a photo.



Naked Fish Ridin’ Darry players pose with their regular season and Bud Light Cup titles.



The 9 Eleven Strikers are presented with the Bud Light Cup trophies in the Tuesday B division.



The Jonny’s Serial Killaz players show their third place trophies in the Flame Tree B division of the regular season.



Members of the 9 Eleven Dabarkadz display their third place trophies in the Tuesday B division.





**Super Bowl  
will pit Brady's  
Pats vs Ryan's  
Falcons**

PAGE 24

# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Curry,  
Thompson  
power Warriors  
past Magic**

PAGE 25



28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ace Hardware's Don Brennan, left, takes off for a layup against Duenas Compound's Perry Inos during the first quarter of their playoff game in the MIBF outdoor caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## Ace Hardware stays alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**A**ce Hardware eliminated Duenas Compound and kept its finals hopes alive following a 65-58 victory in their play-off game in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ace Hardware held Duenas Compound to three field goals in the second quarter to take control of the game en route to its 7-point win. The victory gave Ace Hardware the right to face the Ol'Aces in tonight's duel for the second and last finals berth. The winner of the rubber will challenge Saipan Apparel in the championship round where the latter holds a twice-to-beat advantage.

After going back and forth with Duenas Compound in the first quarter, Ace Hardware ended the second with a double-digit lead, 35-24, as the former struggled offensively in that pivotal period. Duenas Compound held a shaky 17-16 advantage after the opening canto and stretched its lead to 3 after Matt Duenas kicked off the second frame with a jumper.

However, Duenas Compound fired blanks after that and knocked in only two field



goals in the remaining eight minutes and change of the first half. Douglas Schmidt, who finished

the first canto with 11 points and had 9 straight markers midway in that period, was

**See ACE on Page 26**

## Back-to-back for Joeten; first for TDI



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil/COAG's Marlon Sison, right, reaches in to steal the ball from TDI's Jerome Reyes, center, while the former's teammate Sherwin Agustin stays in the play during the fourth quarter of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Joeten Enterprises and Top Development, Inc. prevailed in their respective matches in the 2017 JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Joeten earned back-to-back wins after losing its debut in the league following a 73-64 triumph over GPPC (0-2) in the Pool A pairing, while TDI got its first victory after downing Mobil/COAG in their Pool B duel, 75-66.

TDI took control of the game in the second quarter and halted Mobil's rally in the third to make it to the win column and bounce back from its opening loss to Coca-Cola/Subway.

TDI established a 42-32 lead at the break with Alain Reyes, Raymond Velasco, and Renato Barros teaming up for 22 of the squad's 24 points in the second frame, which ended in a deadlock, 18-all.

Mobil/COAG behind the hot 3-point shooting of Alain Gomez managed to cut the deficit to four midway in the third frame, 46-50, but an 11-4 windup brought TDI's lead back to twin digits, 61-50. Velasco added 8 more points in the third quarter to give TDI some breathing room.

TDI went on to keep its safe distance in the final canto with Jerome Reyes delivering the killer blows, as he nailed 9 of his 15 markers in the fourth.

In the first game, Joeten

**See TDI on Page 26**

## Bigger turnout for Timmy Would Go

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Organizers of the 2nd Annual Timmy Would Go Memorial Paddle Classic are expecting that turnout in this weekend's competition will surpass last year's.

"We will have a bigger number of participants both in the outrigger canoe and standup paddling races this year," said Ponce Rasa of the organizing Napu Outrigger Canoe Club.

"In the inaugural event, we had 145. This year, we already have three confirmed teams from Guam, plus two teams from our Fire department and then a group of Matua riders. Those who have never tried

competing in standup paddling before will be in the shore to try their best to finish their races," Rasa added.

The outrigger canoe and

standup paddling races will be held this Saturday, beginning at 8am in the waters of Kilili Beach. Saturday's races will be for short courses with

the outrigger canoe holding 500m and 1,500m events in the men's and women's, and

**See BIGGER on Page 26**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Napu Outrigger Canoe Club paddlers and officials pose with the staff and officers of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation during a donation turnover ceremony at the JP Centre Building in Garapan last week.